

# Math 237 – Linear Algebra I

## Fall 2016; Sections 104 & 105

**Instructor.** Dr. Armin Straub

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**Course website.** <http://math237.straub.link>

**Office.** ILB 313

**Office phone.** (251) 460-7262 (please use e-mail whenever possible)

**Office hours.** TR, 9:20-12:20pm, 1:50-2:30pm, or by appointment

however, no office hour Thursdays, 9:55-11:10am

**Class schedule.**

Section 104 meets TR, 8:00-9:15am, in ILB 465.

Section 105 meets TR, 12:30-1:45pm, in ILB 350.

**Overview.** This course provides an introduction to linear algebra. Topics include vector spaces, linear transformations, determinants, the eigenvalue problem and applications.

**Textbook.** *Linear Algebra with Applications*, by Jeffrey Holt (W. H. Freeman, 2013)

**Course format.** Web-enhanced.

**Pre-requisite.** C or better in Calculus II (Math 126).

## Grading

**Exams.** There will be two in-class midterm exams and a comprehensive final exam. Notes, books, calculators or computers are not allowed during any of the quizzes or exams.

Our **tentative** exam schedule is:

- Midterm Exam 1: Thursday, September 29
- Midterm Exam 2: Thursday, November 10
- Final Exam:
  - Section 104: Tuesday, December 6 — 8:00am–10:00am
  - Section 105: Thursday, December 8 — 1:00pm–3:00pm

**Quizzes.** Short quizzes will be given most weeks. The main purpose is to make sure that no one gets lost, and it is a way for you to monitor your progress.

**Homework.** Homework problems will be assigned throughout the semester using the free online system WeBWorK. More details on using that system and deadlines will be posted on our course website.

**Grades.** Your grade will be based on the total sum of your scores on the midterm exams, quizzes, homeworks, and the final exam.

- Midterm Exams: 42% in total
- Quizzes: 15% in total
- Homework: 15% in total
- Final Exam: 28%

The resulting numerical score is then translated to your semester grade as follows:

[90, 100]: A,    [80, 90): B,    [70, 80): C,    [60, 70): D,    [0, 60): F.

**Make-up policy.** There will be no make-ups for missed midterms or quizzes. Missed quiz scores are dropped if a valid excuse is presented. If a midterm is missed and appropriate documentation (e.g. a doctor's note) is presented in a timely manner, then the corresponding exam score will be replaced with the final exam score. Otherwise, the score for the missed exam will be recorded as zero.

**Online grades.** Your grades will be posted to Sakai. Please check your grades weekly at <https://ecampus.southalabama.edu> and report any discrepancies within two weeks.

**Dropping.** The final drop date is Friday, October 21. Please speak with me (and/or your advisor) before making a final decision to drop. Ideally, talk to me as soon as you are getting behind, so I can help you complete the course successfully.

## Course organization

**Online material.** This syllabus as well as relevant information and material for this course can be found at our course website.

**Attendance.** Attendance of all lectures is mandatory and roll will be taken. You are responsible for finding out what you missed on days when you were unable to attend.

Let  $X$  be the number of times you miss class without excuse throughout the semester.

- If  $X \leq 3$ , then your lowest quiz score will be dropped.
- If  $X > 6$ , then your overall semester grade will be decreased by a full letter grade.

Students are expected to be on time in class. Frequent late arrivals of a student to the classroom will be considered a disruption and a penalty may be applied in this circumstance.

**Cell phones and other electronic devices.** The use of cell phones and other electronic devices, such as laptops, is not acceptable during lecture and is reserved for emergencies.

**Tutoring lab.** The department offers a tutoring lab in room ILB 235 to all students taking mathematics and statistics classes. There is no lab fee. Please check the bulletin board outside ILB 235 for details.

**Dates of interest.**

- Monday, September 5: Labor Day
- Thursday–Friday, October 6–7: Fall Break
- Friday, October 21: Last day to drop
- Tuesday–Sunday, November 22–27: Thanksgiving Holidays
- Friday, December 2: Last day of classes
- December 5–8: Final examinations

## Further notices

**Changes.** Not all classes progress at the same rate. Thus course requirements and policies might have to be modified as circumstances dictate. You will be given notice if the course policies need to be changed.

**Goals and objectives.** The main objective of this course is for students to develop a good conceptual and computational understanding of the basic concepts of linear algebra, with a focus on various aspects of systems of linear equations and the connection to more abstract concepts.

**JagSuccess.** JagSuccess is a program intended to help students be successful in 100 and 200 level courses. If you are not doing well, you will receive an email alert with further instructions.

**Academic disruption policy.** The University of South Alabama's policy regarding Academic Disruption is found in *The Lowdown*, the student handbook:

<http://www.southalabama.edu/lowdown/academicdisruption.shtml>

*Disruptive academic behavior is defined as individual or group conduct that interrupts or interferes with any educational activity or environment, infringes upon the rights and privileges of others, results in or threatens the destruction of property and/or is otherwise prejudicial to the maintenance of order in an academic environment.*

Students are expected to be cordial, courteous and respectful of faculty members and fellow students.

**Academic Conduct Policy.** The University of South Alabama's policy regarding Student Academic Conduct Policy is found in *The Lowdown*:

<http://www.southalabama.edu/lowdown/academicconductpolicy.shtml>

*The University of South Alabama is a community of scholars in which the ideals of freedom of inquiry, freedom of thought, freedom of expression, and freedom of the individual are sustained. The University is committed to supporting the exercise of any right guaranteed to individuals by the Constitution and the Code of Alabama and to educating students relative to their responsibilities.*

**Disability accommodations.** In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, students with bona fide disabilities will be afforded reasonable accommodations. The Office of Special Student Services (OSSS) will certify a disability and advise faculty members of reasonable accommodations. If you have a specific disability that qualifies you for academic accommodations, please notify the professor and provide certification from the Office of Special Student Services. OSSS is located at 5828 Old Shell Road at Jaguar Drive, (251-460-7212).

**Online writing support.** The University of South Alabama provides online writing tutoring services through SMARTHINKING, an online tutoring service, available at <http://services.smarthinking.com>.

**Welcome to Linear Algebra!**

...and please ask anytime if you have questions.