

Math 215 - Introduction to Linear Algebra

1 Basic Information

Instructor: Ryan Smith

Office: MTH 702

Office Hours: Tuesday 10-11am, Friday 2-3pm, or by appointment

Telephone / Email: (520) 621-8308 / rsmith@math.arizona.edu

Website: <http://math.arizona.edu/~rsmith/fall109/>

Textbook: *Elementary Linear Algebra* by Kenneth Kuttler, version 8/26/09. The book is available for download from the course website.

Exam dates: The midterms will be on October 1st and November 5th. The final exam will be on December 15th from 2-4pm.

2 Attendance & Homework

Attendance is highly encouraged but will not be taken except on the first day of classes, and exam days. Failure to attend on any of those days where attendance is taken could result in an administrative drop.

Homework will consist of reading assignments as well as selected exercises from the text and/or instructor. Homework will be posted on the course website at the beginning of each week, but it may never be collected; however, we will find occasion to discuss homework problems regularly. Doing these assignments is *absolutely crucial* to obtain success in the class, and you should expect some number of weekly quizzes on material related to the homework. **If this does not seem to be working, I reserve the right to begin collecting the homework.**

3 Grading

The course will be graded on a combination of two midterms, a semester long project, quizzes, homework, and a final exam. The breakdown of points will be:

- Each midterm exam will be worth 100 points.
- The semester long project will be worth 50 points.
- The combination of homework and quizzes will be worth 50 points. Since the homework may or may not be collected, most of these points will come from the quizzes.
- The final exam will be worth 200 points.

There will be two in-class exams worth 100 points apiece, as well as a final exam worth 200 points. Each exam is comprehensive but the midterms will focus on the material covered since the previous exam. The types of exam problems will be drawn directly from the homework (so there is a very strong incentive to work through problem sets carefully and ask questions).

The standard grading intervals will be used to determine final grades: A = [90%, 100%], B = [80%, 90%), C = [70%, 80%), D = [60%, 70%), and E = [0%, 60%). In the event of extremely close borderline grades I reserve the right to round up at my discretion.

4 Other Policies

- If homework is collected, it will be due within the first five minutes of class, with no exceptions and no credit for late assignments. There is no extra credit.
- Quizzes may be announced or unannounced.
- Be familiar and comply with the standard university policies. Please refer to the webpage <http://catalog.arizona.edu/2009-10/policies/aaindex.html>.
- Make-up examinations will not be given except in the case of a valid excuse (such as a medical emergency), and documentation must be supplied to the instructor.
- Academic dishonesty, including cheating on examinations, will not be tolerated.
- A grade of “I” will be awarded only in unusual circumstances, which include but are not limited to: you request it within 24 hours after the final, you have completed nearly all of the work for the course, you are near passing level, you have a valid reason for not completing the course, and you agree to make up the missed material in a short period of time. An I will not be awarded in the place of a failing grade.
- All cell phones must be turned off before entering class. If your phone goes off during class I get to answer it.