Outline for Math 280
Introduction to Linear Algebra
Fall 2005

Meetings: MWF 12:30-1:20 in SH 109

Instructor: Guram Bezhanishvili

Office Hours: MWF 11:25-12:25, and by appointment

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Prerequisites: C or better in either Math 142G, Math 191, or Math 235


Objectives: Matrices and linear algebra arise in all parts of mathematics and in the disciplines that use mathematics. Matrices are a convenient means to encode information, and linear algebra provides the methodology to analyze and simplify matrices so that they become an effective tool in applications. The main objective of Math 280 is to study the basic linear algebra and its use in applications.

Material: We cover most of the first five chapters of the text, largely in the order it appears in the text.

Grades: Your course grade will be determined from your homework (30%), the midterm (30%), and the final (40%). Homework will be assigned routinely and a sample of exercises will be collected periodically for grading. The midterm exam will roughly consist of 4 to 5 problems, and will cover material from the first half of the semester. The final exam will roughly consist of 8 to 10 problems, and will be cumulative.

Homework: To succeed in this course, daily work on practice problems must be done. Exams will test both conceptual understanding and quantitative manipulations. Practice will build the required critical thinking and problem solving skills required on the exams. A student who can complete all homework problems will have a good grasp of the course material, and many of the questions on the midterm and final exams will be of a similar nature to those assigned as homework.
Missed Test Policy: There will be no make-up for missed homework. The only valid excuses for missing the midterm exam are documented illness, death in the family, or required participation in any university related function. Supporting documentation is required. Students must notify the instructor before the midterm exam is missed in order to qualify for a make-up exam. Failure to do so will result in a “0”.

Final Exam: The final exam will take place on Fri. Dec 9th, 1:00 – 3:00, SH 109.

Withdrawals and Incompletes: You have the primary responsibility for withdrawing from the course. I will authorize the secretary in the Math Office (SH 236) to sign drop slips for me, in case I am not available. The last date to drop with a “W” is Wednesday, October 12th. Under University policy, an I grade is allowed only if a student has passed the first half of the course, and is precluded from completion of the second half of the course by a documented illness or family crisis.

Policies: Students are expected to attend every class and show up on time. I also expect students to write clear prose and show some mathematical maturity in the work they turn in.

Important Notes:

- At the end of the final examination, the course is over, and there are no more opportunities to submit additional work.
- I will not compose extra credit assignments for students who want to try to compensate for poor results in another component of the course.
- Feel free to ask questions in class.

Disabilities: If you have or believe you have a disability, you may wish to self-identify. You can do so by providing documentation to the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office in Corbett Center Room 244 at 646-6840. Appropriate accommodations may then be provided for you. If you are already registered with the SSD office, please make sure that I have received a copy of your “Accommodations Memo” from the SSD within the first two weeks. It is your responsibility to inform your SSD representative or me if the services or accommodations provided are not meeting your needs.