Mathematics 2250 - Elementary Linear Algebra
Spring 2008

Instructor: Dan Stanescu, 218 Ross Hall, Tel. 766-4380, stanescu@uwyo.edu.
Office Hours: W 10:00-10:50AM, R 3:00-4:00PM, and by appointment.
Class time & room: TR 9:35-10:50AM in BU304.

Brief Course Description Linear Algebra stems from the study of systems of linear equations and is an area of mathematics with a large number of applications in physical sciences and engineering, from the study of resonance and eigenfrequencies to computer image processing. The course will give you the basic knowledge necessary for understanding these applications. It will cover vectors and matrices and operations pertaining to them, solutions of systems of linear equations, determinants, eigenvalues and eigenvectors, finite dimensional vector spaces and linear transformations. These topics are presented in chapters 1 through 5 of the textbook.

GRADING

• Homework: 30%. At least six sets of homework problems will be assigned during the course (one or more per topic). Your solutions must be turned in within a week from the date you’ve been assigned the homework. I might grade all problems and am hopeful that I’ll be able to do that; otherwise I’ll randomly choose several problems in every set and grade them. I’ll also post solutions to graded problems on a website for which I’ll give you the address. Your grade for every set will be an average of the grade obtained on the graded problems. No make-ups for homeworks; however, your worst homework grade will not be taken into consideration. Note that mathematics, more than probably any other subject, can only be learned by hands-on practice, so doing all the homework problems is essential to your performance in this class.
• Two Mid-term Exams (20% each): 40%. In case you must miss an exam, please make arrangements beforehand. Requests for make-up after the scheduled date will not be honored. These tests and the final exam will be closed-books, but you are allowed a handwritten letter-sized cheat sheet with the information you need on both sides, as well as a calculator. Tentative dates for these exams are Feb. 7th and March. 6th. The exact date will be announced in class at least one week in advance.
• Final exam: 30%. Will feature approximately 60% material covered after the last midterm and 40% comprehensive material.
• Supplementary Instruction and Class participation. Supplementary instruction sessions will be held for this class by one of your peers. Participation in those sessions, meaning both attendance and involvement, as well as regular class attendance, may make the difference whether you get an A or a B. You may receive as much as 15% extra credit this way; I won’t take any credit away if you don’t deem this necessary, but then you better do really well on the exams.

The information contained herein is tentative. If the instructor finds that changes are necessary, he will announce them in class. If you have a physical, learning, or psychological disability and require accommodations, please let me know as soon as possible. You will need to register with, and provide documentation of your disability to, University Disability Support Services (UDSS) in SEO, room 330 Knight Hall, 766-6189, TTY: 766-3073.