

Syllabus—Math 321, Linear Algebra, Fall 2012

General Information

Instructor: Matthew Blair

Email: blair@math.unm.edu

Course Website: <http://www.math.unm.edu/~blair/math321.html>

Office: SMLC 330

Office Hours: Tuesday 1:15-3:15 pm, and by appointment.

Text: *Linear Algebra and its Applications, Fourth Edition*, by David C. Lay. There is also an optional study guide for the text which gives detailed solutions to every third odd-numbered exercise.

Meeting times/location: Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30-10:45am in SMLC 356.

Course Description

From the catalog: Linear transformations, matrices, eigenvalues and eigenvectors, inner product spaces. It is expected that most (but not all) of the sections in Chapters 1-6 will be covered.

Grading Scheme

Grades will be determined by the following: Homework 25%, 2 Midterm Exams 45%, Final 30%

Exams

The largest portion of your total grade will be determined by two midterms and a final exam. The midterms will be held in class on **Thursday, September 20** and **Thursday, November 1**. Information regarding the content of the midterms will be provided in class as the time approaches. The cumulative final exam will be held on **Tuesday, December 11, 7:30-9:30am** in the usual classroom. If an exam is missed for a valid and documented reason (illness, family emergency, active participation in scholarly or athletic activities), then the missing score will be replaced by an average of the other exam scores.

Homework

A strong commitment to solving problems outside the classroom is crucial for your success in this course. Homework problems will be assigned on a weekly basis, some of which you will hand in for a grade and others that you should work out on your own. Assignments will be posted on the course website. **Late homework will not be accepted**, though the two lowest scores will be dropped at the end of the semester. You may discuss homework problems with others, however each assignment must be written up in your own words.

On each collected assignment, only a few select problems will be graded thoroughly. However, your assignment will be checked for completeness as well, to make sure that all parts have been worked out. It is very important that you **show your work** on each assignment, as your grades will be based on what you have demonstrated, not just the answer on the bottom line. Indeed, in many cases, your homework will be graded largely on the clarity and cogency of your mathematical reasoning, rather than the final answer. Please take care to hand in a neat, legible assignment and staple the pages together in the corner.

You are also expected to read the textbook outside of class. Reading sections in the book before they are discussed in class will help you to get the most out of class time and to stay on top of the material.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Any violations of academic ethics will be investigated thoroughly and penalized accordingly. Academic dishonesty as defined by the student code of conduct includes but is not limited to “dishonesty in quizzes, tests or assignments; claiming credit for work not done or done by others; hindering the academic work of other students; misrepresenting academic or professional qualifications within or without the University; and nondisclosure or misrepresentation in filling out applications or other University records.”

In particular, you may discuss homework problems with others, but collected assignments must be written up on your own and in your own words. You may not collaborate on exams in any manner.

Special Arrangements

Accommodations will be made for students with documented disabilities. Students requiring such accommodations must inform the instructor within the first two weeks of the semester.