

MATH 203
Matrix Algebra
Fall 2008, Section 2

Instructor : David Singman

Office and Hours: Science & Tech I, Room 235, T&Th 2:30-3:30pm and by appointment.

E-mail and Telephone: dsingman@gmu.edu, (703)-993-1476. You can leave a voice-mail message if I am unavailable, but it's better to send me an e-mail.

Web site: A web site has been set up for the course. You are responsible for checking the homepage of the site for updates each day. On it I will post announcements relevant to the course such as information on homework to be turned in, copies of tests once they are given as well as complete solution sets, MATLAB computer assignments and information on MATLAB, lists of practice problems, this syllabus, etc. You can find it by going to <http://math.gmu.edu>, following the link to “**course information**”, then “**course home pages**” and clicking on the link to our section.

Course: This is a standard first course in Linear Algebra. The topics include the following: systems of linear equations, matrix algebra, determinants, vector spaces, linear independence and basis, eigenvalues and eigenvectors, inner product and orthogonality.

Text: The text is *Linear Algebra and Its Applications, third edition by David C. Lay, Addison Wesley*. We will cover, with some omissions, Chapters 1-6.

Grading: The grade will be based on three class tests (20% each for a total of 60%), graded homework (total of 5%), MATLAB computer assignments (total 5%), and a final exam (30%). Makeups will not be given for class tests. In the event that one class test is missed, the final exam score will count in place of the missed exam. The tests will be given in class as follows:
Test 1 - Thursday September 18
Test 2 - Thursday October 23
Test 3 - Thursday November 20

Practice Problems: These are included on the back of the syllabus handed out in class and on the course website. You should do each of them as the appropriate section is covered. Your work on these problems will not be collected, however, it is very important that you work each problem yourself. Mathematics can only be learned by working through problems, not by reading someone else's solutions. Test and Homework Problems will consist of questions similar in spirit to the problems worked in class (so it is important to attend all lectures) and on the practice problems.

Final exam: It will be a cumulative exam, held on **Thursday December 11**, 10:30am-1:15pm.

Scale: A^- , A , A^+ 90 - 100; B^- , B , B^+ 80 - 89; C , C^+ 70 - 79; D 60 - 69; F 0 - 59.