

SYLLABUS – MATH 203
Spring 2014

Dr. J. Shapiro

Office: Exploratory Hall, Room 4413
Hours: MW 10:00 - 11:00 and by appointment
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Text: “Linear Algebra and its Applications”, by David C. Lay, Fourth Edition
Home Page <http://math.gmu.edu/~jshapiro/203/index.html>

Prerequisite: The official prerequisite for the course is two semesters of calculus. However, what is primarily needed is a certain level of mathematical sophistication.

Material to be covered: We will cover, in order, chapters 1 - 6, with some sections omitted. The course provides an elementary introduction to linear algebra (with applications). Topics include systems of equations, matrices, determinants, vector spaces, eigenvalues and eigenvectors, inner products and the Gram-Schmidt process.

Grading: Your grade for the course will be based on the results of four exams during the term (100 points each) and a comprehensive final (150 points). The tentative schedule for the exams and for the final are as follows (other than the final, the dates are subject to change):

Exam 1	Tuesday, Feb. 11
Exam 2	Thursday, March 6
Exam 3	Tuesday, April 8
Exam 4	Tuesday, April 29
Final	Tuesday, May 14, 1:30 - 4:15

Make-up for the exams will be allowed only under unusual circumstances (for which I may want proof). A make-up exam is not automatic and will be given at my discretion. If a student has a valid reason for missing one exam, but cannot take a make-up in a timely fashion, his or her grade will then be based on the three exams that are taken.

The grading scale is approximately as follows –
A: 90 - 98, B: 80 – 90⁻, C: 70 – 80⁻, D: 60 – 70⁻, F: 0 - 59.

Plus or minus grades will be used for borderline cases.

The following page contains the homework assignment for the term. While the homework will not be collected, it is important to do all the problems as we cover a section (if not sooner). The homework from a section will be reviewed the meeting after we finish the lecture on that section.