

Math 251 syllabus

Course: Math 251, Matrix Algebra I

Course description: The purpose of this course is to master matrix algebra and elementary linear algebra. We will cover systems of linear equations, Gaussian elimination, determinants, vector spaces, orthogonality, linear transformations, eigenvalues, and eigenvectors.

Textbook: “Elementary Linear Algebra” by Howard Anton, 11th edition.

Class: MWF 2:30-3:20 in Ayres 124

Instructor: Prof. Dustin Cartwright

Email: cartwright@utk.edu

Office hours: W 3:30-4:30, Th 1:30-2:30, and by appointment. Ayres 212.

Grading: homework (15%), two midterms (25% each), final exam (35%)

Midterms: Mon, Sep 29 and Mon, Nov 10 in class.

Final: Mon, Dec. 8, 2:45-4:45. The final is comprehensive.

Exam policies: During the midterms and final, you will only be allowed to use your pen or pencil. In particular, calculators, cell phones, headphones, books, and notes are not allowed during the exam. In general, missed exams will count for zero. If you must miss an exam due to a medical emergency or other serious excuse, please let me know before the exam, if possible.

Homework: Homework is due at the beginning of class every Friday. Assigned problems will be posted online using Blackboard. Late homework will not be accepted, but the lowest homework grade will be dropped. Each homework assignment will be graded based on a combination of completeness and one or two problems which will be chosen during grading.

You are allowed and encouraged to discuss your homework assignments with other people in the class. However, you must write up your own solution independently of any other source and you must acknowledge your collaborations in your assignment.

Classroom behavior: I expect you to attend and be engaged for the entirety of every class. Please do not use cellphones, laptops, or other devices during class and if you must, do not disturb those around you.

Disability accommodations: Students that need special accommodations due to a disability should contact the Office of Disability Services (<http://ods.utk.edu/>) and bring me the appropriate paperwork.

Religious observances: If you will miss class due to a religious observance, please notify me in writing within the first week of class.