

Math 253 – Linear Algebra

Spring 2010

Course Procedures

Professor: Josh Laison

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Office Hours:

Monday 3:00-4:30

Wednesday 3:00-4:30

Thursday 11:00-12:00 AM, at the Bistro

or anytime by appointment or by catching me in my office. You can see my schedule and available times at <http://www.willamette.edu/~jlaison>

Class Meetings: Ford 301, 10:20-11:20 Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Text: Linear Algebra and its Applications, 3rd edition, David C. Lay

Course Web Page: <http://www.willamette.edu/~jlaison/linear.html>

Topics Covered:

We will cover most of Chapters 1–5 of the text, and as much of Chapter 6 as we can get to in the time we have. We will cover approximately one section a day. In order to get to later topics, a few sections may be omitted; for example, Sections 1.10, 2.4, and 4.8.

Grading:

Standard Problems (8)	25%
Individual Problems (8)	25%
Team Problems (8)	25%
Quizzes (8)	25%
Total	100%

Homework Assignments:

There will be three types of homework in this course. You will have an assignment of each type due approximately once every week and a half, not all at the same time. For the standard and team problems, please talk to your classmates and me as often as you like. There are no “stupid questions,” but it is foolish to become frustrated about a problem because you’re working on it too long by yourself. Collaboration is an integral part of mathematics, and you should take advantage of the resources you have available to you.

Standard Problems: These problems will be designed to enhance your understanding of the topics covered in class. You are encouraged to work together on these problems in study groups. However, please write your solutions to these problems in your own words. You should look at and work on *all* of the problems, however, only the underlined ones will be graded and commented on.

Team Problems: You will work with a team of one or two other students on these problems, and will turn in a single solution to each problem for your team. This does not mean that you should divide up these problems and each work on a third of them. They are meant to be discussed in collaboration. I hold you accountable to be an active member of your team.

Individual Problems: You may not consult any person about these problems other than me. You may not consult any source about these problems other than your textbook, your notes, and class handouts. These problems take the place of exams in this course. Please make every effort to keep your work on these problems independent.

Quizzes: The quizzes will be short and straightforward, testing whether you understand the basic ideas of each two weeks of class. They will each take about half an hour of class time.

Late Assignments and Missed Classes:

I expect everyone to attend all classes and turn in all homework assignments. Unfortunately, it is inevitable that some people will have crises during the semester that will prevent them from attending class or turning in homework on time.

If for some reason you are unable to attend class or turn in an assignment, please let me know as soon as possible, preferably *before* the missed class or assignment. The longer you wait to tell me, the less sympathetic I will become. The worst is to never tell me about it at all.

Attendance at the Math Department Colloquium:

According to math department policy, since you are enrolled in a 200-level mathematics course, you are required to attend at least 2 mathematics department colloquium talks. The goal of this requirement is to expose you to a wider range of mathematics, and to make you want to go to more than 2 talks! I hope you will decide by the end of the semester, as I have, that math talks are a lot of fun. If you miss this requirement, points will be deducted from your final grade.

Disabilities:

If you have a documented disability for which accommodations may be required in this class, please contact me to discuss your needs. Additionally, you will need to register with Disability and Learning Services in the Bishop Wellness Center within the first two weeks of class. All such discussions will be confidential.

Academic Honesty:

Cheating and plagiarism are serious offenses and will be treated severely, in accordance with college policy. In addition, I am personally insulted by such behavior. So please don't do it. These are the practices I expect you to follow in each of the components of the course:

on homework: You may, and are encouraged to, discuss the homework with anyone, get help from Maple, graphing calculators, your textbook, etc. However, your submitted written work should be your own.

on the team problems: Each member of the group should contribute to the final product. Do not put your name on a paper written by others.

on the individual problems: You may consult your text and notes. You may not discuss the individual problems with anyone other than me.

on quizzes: I will specify what resources you are allowed to use on the quizzes in class. You will never be allowed to receive aid from other students.