MATH 250 Introduction to Linear Algebra
General Information for Summer Session II

Meeting Time: MTWTh (10:10am - 12:10pm), ARC-107 (BUS)

Prerequisites: The only prerequisite is Calculus 2 (01:640:152 or 01:640:192). You are responsible for satisfying these prerequisites, even if you somehow managed to register without having completed them. If you wish to drop the course for lack of prerequisites, earlier is better.

June 23 is the last day to drop with no W and full refund. July 5 is the last day to drop with a W and a 50% refund. July 28 is the last day to drop with a W and no refund. These dates are not comprehensive, and you should know the dates at this link:

www.summersession.rutgers.edu/important-dates


The textbook is not absolutely required since I will be writing out the homework assignments. But we will be following the text for the most part and I will often make reference to text in class. The additional suggested (optional) exercises from the text are an invaluable study tool. I strongly recommend that each student obtain a copy of the text.

Lecturer: Joseph Guadagni (email: joseph.guadagni@rutgers.edu OR joseph.guadagni@gmail.com)
Office: Hill-215 (BUS) Office hours: MTWTh 12:20pm - 1:20pm
Text: Phone number is on Sakai course site

Depending on room availability, I will likely just have office hours in the classroom immediately after class for everyone’s convenience. TBA.

Yes, you may text me with questions. I find that many students find that more convenient than office hours or email. I put my phone on “do not disturb” mode when I go to bed, so if you text too late you may not get a response until the next day. Same rules for email. Please identify yourself the first time you text me. Do not worry: I will not text you except in response to your questions. Questions by email are also welcome.

TA: There is no Teaching Assistant for this course in the summer session.

Web page: All course materials can be found on the Mathematics Department course page:

www.math.rutgers.edu/courses/250

Information specific to this section, e.g., syllabus, quiz solutions, and announcements, may also be found on the Sakai course site.

Assessment: Your course grade consists of a total of 500 points, weighted by the following five categories: homework assignments (50), Quizzes (50), Midterm #1 (100), Midterm #2 (100), Final Exam (200). (All exams are closed book; no notes, phones, computers, calculators, etc.) As grades are calculated, you may find them on Sakai.

Homework: Assignments will be found on Sakai and a hard-copy should be submitted in class. There will be 1 assignment that corresponds to each lecture (so about 20 assignments in total). I have found that students find it a bit easier if all homework is due at the end of the week instead of each day. So all homework for the week will be due each corresponding Thursday at the beginning of class. You should write up each assignment separately and not just jumble all of the week’s questions together in one large submission. Homework will be graded and returned to you promptly.
Quizzes: There will be a total of 5 quizzes throughout the semester, with tentative dates indicated in the syllabus. Each quiz is graded out of 10 points. No quizzes are dropped.

Midterms: The tentative dates of both exams are indicated in the syllabus. No calculators or computers are allowed.

Final exam: The final exam is cumulative and will be held on Thursday, August 3, 10:10am - 1:10pm in ARC-107 (i.e., regular class meeting with an extra hour). The final exam date is determined by the university and cannot be changed.

You cannot be excused from the final exam. There are only some specific conditions under which you can reschedule the final exam (e.g., you have finals in 3 consecutive periods). In particular, you will not be excused from the final or allowed to reschedule because of travel arrangements.

Letter Grades: Your final letter grade will be determined by your course grade (percentage out of 500 points) and a curve that I set for the class. In past semesters of teaching this course, I have tended to use the following cutoffs for grades:

- A (at least 90%)
- B (at least 75%)
- C (at least 60%)
- D (at least 53%)

The final curve may have different cutoffs but they will only go down. In other words, these cutoffs are the harshest cutoffs possible and any changes to the curve will only help you. You can use these cutoffs to judge your own performance throughout the course.

Attendance: Attendance is not explicitly part of your grade, but there will be no makeups for quizzes or exams except in extreme circumstances. Please note that it is unacceptable to miss an exam for anything less than a truly compelling and documented reason.

Because of the faster pace of summer courses compared to regular fall/spring courses, missing class is also particularly detrimental to your learning. Students who miss even one or two classes may miss major ideas and fall significantly behind. Even students with perfect attendance may feel as if they have little time to assimilate one set of mathematical ideas before having to learn the next one. Make no mistake: a summer course is equivalent to its fall/spring counterpart. Do not fall into the trap of thinking that because some rules may be more lax in the summer that the course itself is somehow easier.

If you must miss class, please notify me by email or text. In other words, attendance is not strictly mandatory, but it effectively is. Do not miss class!!

Integrity: All students in the course are expected to be familiar with and abide by the academic integrity policy, which can be found at

http://academicintegrity.rutgers.eduacademic-integrity-at-rutgers

Violations of the policy are taken very seriously.

Accommodations: Full disability policies and procedures are indicated at

http://ods.rutgers.edu

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations must present a Letter of Accommodations to the instructor as early in the term as possible. See

https://ods.rutgers.edu/my-accommodations/letter-of-accommodations

Schedule: A tentative schedule of which topics will be covered in each class meeting can be found below. This schedule is subject to change, at my discretion.