

Math 250: Introduction to Linear Algebra

Summer 2018

Instructor: Joseph Palmer

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Office: Hill 340

Office Hours: Wednesdays and Fridays 11-noon (tentative)

Personal Website: <http://sites.math.rutgers.edu/~jp1535/>

Course Website: http://sites.math.rutgers.edu/~jp1535/teaching/2018summer_math250/

Course Times: 6:00-8:45 Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays

Room: SEC-211

Textbook: *Elementary Linear Algebra by Spence, Insel & Friedberg* (Prentice Hall, "Classic Edition" ISBN 0-13-468947-X or "second edition" ISBN 0-13-187141-2)

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to linear algebra for students who haven't seen it before. It is not a proof-based course, but there will be some time spent on trying to understand the tools/techniques that we use. We will cover the following six general topics:

- Matrices and linear systems (Ch 1)
- Matrix algebra (Ch 2)
- Determinants (Ch 3)
- Basis and dimension (Ch 4)
- Eigenvalues/vectors (Ch 5)
- Orthogonality & Spectral decomposition (Ch 6)

Grading:

Breakdown of grades:

Homework and Quizzes	30%
Midterm	30%
Final	40%

Exams:

There will be two exams in the course. The midterm is scheduled for Monday, June 18th, and the final exam is scheduled for Friday, July 6th. Each exam will take place during the usual scheduled class time, and typically make up exams are not given except for in extreme cases (please let me know beforehand if you have an important reason that you have to miss one of the exams).

Schedule:

A tentative schedule for the course describing the topics we will cover in each class can be found at the course webpage http://sites.math.rutgers.edu/~jp1535/teaching/2018summer_math250/. I will stick as close as possible to this schedule but it is possible that we will get a little behind or ahead at different points in the course.

SAKAI:

For this course I will be using the SAKAI gradebook, so you can log onto this page to see your current grade in the course. Please inform me of any discrepancies between the grades you think you got and your grades on SAKAI immediately.

Integrity:

You are encouraged to discuss problems pertaining to this course and examples from class with your classmates, but you should complete the homework assignments independently. Remember you will be alone for the exams, which are the majority of your grade, so the homework problems should be approached as important practice. Of course, I will not tolerate any cheating during the midterms or the final. See academicintegrity.rutgers.edu for more details about the academic integrity policies at Rutgers.

Disability:

If you have a disability, please coordinate with the Office of Disability Services <https://ods.rutgers.edu/> as early as possible in the semester and I will do my best to accommodate your needs.