

Math 261  
*Linear Algebra*  
Spring 2012

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Office Hours:  
MW 2:00 – 3:00  
TuTh 1:30 – 3:00  
after class, or by arrangement

Textbook: Anton & Rorres, *Elementary Linear Algebra*, Applications Version, 10<sup>th</sup> edition.

Grades

Course grades will be determined on the basis of two midterms, a final exam, and weekly homework assignments. All graded activities will be combined into a percentage of possible points (details available if you wish) that will be converted to a course grade on a scale that is at least as generous as the following:

95 – 100	A	80 – 82	B–	63 – 65	D+
91 – 95	A–	78 – 80	C+	< 63	D, D–, or F
89 – 91	B+	67 – 78	C	(depending in part on a subjective assessment of your work)	
82 – 89	B	65 – 67	C–		

Final exam is Friday, May 4, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. Note that this is late in the exam week. The final will **not** be offered any other time – *please plan accordingly*.

Midterm exams are scheduled for Tuesdays, February 14 and March 27.

Homework assignments will be given almost every week, due on Thursday. Late homework will not be accepted, except according to the extension policy (see back of this sheet). There will be opportunities in class to ask questions about homework. Depending on the flow of the course and student interest, group projects may be folded into the homework at some points in the semester.

Mathematica You will learn to use the computer algebra system *Mathematica* for some fundamental computations in the course. While this software can be a bit frustrating at first, using it thoughtfully can provide a huge saving in time and effort in the long run. More details will follow.

Calculators There is a lot of computation in this subject, especially early in the course. Having a basic calculator handy will be useful from time to time.

(Over)

### Electronic copies

Electronic copies of many course documents and files (handouts, homework assignments, etc.) will be placed in the public folder for this course on the academic file server. This is the **only way** that homework assignments will be distributed. You are also invited to access other documents in the folder whenever you like.

Cell phones: OFF.

### Policy on homework collaboration

Working together with other people is a great way to learn mathematics. I encourage you to work together on the homework. However, homework for this course is also graded, as part of your final course grade. Each student must write up his or her own homework solutions. By handing in homework solutions to be graded, you are promising that you took part in solving the problems, and that you are not just copying someone else's work. Handing in homework to be graded when you did not participate in solving the problems is a violation of the Honor Code.

### Make-up Exams and Extensions on Assignments

Extensions on the due dates of assignments and individual re-scheduling of exams will be granted only for the following reasons:

- Serious and verifiable illness or medical emergency
- Participation in an *official* Rhodes College activity (e.g., course field trip, sports team travel)
- Religious holidays
- Major life event (such as birth, wedding, death) – your own or a close family member
- Other genuine emergency that is beyond your control

Notice that this is an extensive list. It does not, however, include situations in which the timing of an exam or assignment is simply inconvenient for you. In particular, there will be no accommodation for ordinary travel arrangements before or after college breaks.

If you wish to request an extension or re-scheduling because of a situation which can be known ahead of time, it is your responsibility to make arrangements in advance. Permission might not be given after the fact. You may be asked to make your request in writing.

In all cases, your instructor is the final judge of whether an accommodation is warranted.