

COURSE DESCRIPTION
LINEAR ALGEBRA
MA 260–2B

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM

Course Instructor: Dr. B. Aslan
Office: CH 479
Phone#: 934-8625
E-mail: aslan@math.ufl.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. or by appointment

Meeting times: TR 9:30 – 10:45 a.m.
Meeting location: BEC 117
Prerequisite: Grade of C or better in MA 126
Credits: 3 semester hours
Textbook: *Matrix Methods — An Introduction, 2nd Ed.* by Richard Bronson, Academic Press, 1991; Topics to be covered can be found in Chapters 1 — 6 and parts of Chapter 9.

Important dates:

First day of classes: January 7, 2008
Last day to drop/add: January 14, 2008
Martin Luther King Holiday: January 21, 2008
Last day to withdraw with a “W”: March 6, 2008
Spring Break (no classes): March 9 – 15, 2008
Last day of classes: April 23, 2008
Weather make-up day: April 24, 2008
 Test I: on or near Thursday, February 7;
Major exams: Test II: on or near Thursday, March 6;
 Test III: on or near Thursday, April 17.
(These dates are approximate and may be slightly shifted due to unforeseen circumstances.)
Final exam: Tuesday, April 29, 2008, 8:00 – 10:30 a.m. (Location to be announced.)

Course policies:

- Please make sure that you are able to receive e-mail through your Blazer-ID account. Official course announcements may be sent to that address.

Date: January 03, 2008.

- If you wish to request a disability accommodation please contact DSS at 934-4205 or at *dss@uab.edu*.
- No cell phones are allowed in the classroom.
- The two lowest homework grades will be dropped to account for any missed assignments due to illness or any other circumstance. If a test is missed due to a serious verifiable circumstance or official university business, the test will be made up at a time between the last day of class and the final exam. You have to advise the instructor of such circumstances at the earliest possibility. At most one make-up will be allowed. The time and location will be announced near the end of the semester.
- No books, notes, or calculators will be allowed during any of the tests. Always show your work unless problem is explicitly stated otherwise. Answers without work, even if they are correct, will receive no credit.

Methods of teaching and learning:

- 29 class meetings of 75 minutes consisting of lectures and discussions of examples and homework problems. Time for three in-class tests is also included.
- Students are expected to undertake at least 6 hours of private study and homework per week.
- Homework will be assigned 12 times (each on a thursday) and will be collected on the following thursday. A few randomly chosen problems will be graded each time. Each homework worth 5 points. Lowest two scores will be dropped.

Course content: Linear equations and matrices; real vector spaces, basis, diagonalization, linear transformations; determinants, eigenvalues, and eigenvectors; inner product spaces, matrix diagonalization; applications and selected other topics.

Assessment procedures:

- Student achievement will be assessed by the following measures:
 - **Three 75-minute tests in class** including short questions for which either full credit or no credit is awarded (Part I) as well as problems requiring in depth understanding for which partial credit is awarded where appropriate. Each test worth 50 points adding 150 points to your total score.
 - **Weekly homework assignments.** 12 homeworks will be assigned and collected. Each homework worth 5 points and the lowest two scores will be dropped. 10 remaining homeworks add 50 points to your total score.
 - **An “optional” 150-minute comprehensive final examination** including Part I and Part II type problems. The final exam worth 100 points and half of the final exam score replaces the lowest exam score if it is higher than the lowest exam score.
- Your course performance is the half of your total score for this course. Your total score is a number between 0 and 200 ($50 \cdot 3$ [exams] + 50 [homeworks]), and therefore your course performance is a number between 0 and 100.

- Your final grade is determined according to the following table:
Course performance: 88-100 75-87 62-74 50-61 below 50
Final Grade: A B C D F

Tips: Keep up with your homework. Ask if you have questions or need help. By working steadily and regularly, you will increase your chances to succeed in this course. Remember, being a full-time student is a full-time job.
