

MAT 230, Matrix algebra, Fall 2009

Syllabus

Welcome! Please, take your time to study carefully the course information and policies. An updated copy will be maintained at my webpage,

<http://oswego.edu/~protsak>.

General information The course meets TR 11:10 am – 12:30 pm (Section 800), TR 12:45 – 2:05 pm (Section 810), Snygg 300. Your instructor is Victor Protsak, Snygg 212, and can be reached by phone 312-2733 or email protsak@oswego.edu. The textbook is

David Lay, *Linear algebra and its applications*, 3rd edition, Pearson.

We will frequently use a graphing calculator such as TI-89, Voyager 200, or older TI-92. On exams, certain questions may require the use of a calculator and other questions must be completed without it.

Getting help In this course, questions are welcome at any time, both in and out of the classroom! I encourage you to talk to me if you are the least bit confused. My office hours are MW 9:00–11:00 a.m., T 4:00–5:00 p.m., and by appointment. If you are falling behind or have trouble following the lectures, I would like to learn about it as early as possible.

Short description Linear systems, matrix algebra, determinants, vector spaces, applications of linear algebra, eigenvalues and eigenvectors.

My expectations of you We will look at many exciting and difficult concepts in this course, but to master them you will need to put in a fair amount of your own effort. In order to receive the full course credit, you must attend the lectures, participate in the classroom activities (including quizzes), turn in the exams, and do the assigned homework (reading and problems). You are responsible for all announcements made in class, including changes to the syllabus, as well as for procuring a copy of the notes from your classmates.

Exams and grading There will be three midterm exams in the lecture and a comprehensive final exam. Exam dates and the material to be covered on each exam will be announced in class. You must take the exams at the designated date and time. All exams are going to be "closed book" tests. Your grade will be based upon your total score weighted as follows:

- Midterm exams 15% each (45% total)
- The final exam 25%
- Attendance and class participation 10%
- Homework and quizzes 20%

Advice on studying Stay on the top of things: it is far easier to move along than to play catch-up. Be consistent: spread your workload uniformly through the week and throughout the semester. Learn actively: if you simply show up in class expecting to hear all the answers, you will not master the material. Read more tips on studying at my website.

Homework Homework will be assigned in class and posted online. The homework is the most important part of the course. You must do reading assignments before coming to class — I will check on it! No matter how well you think you understand the material presented in class, you won't really learn it until you do the problems. You are free to devise whatever strategy for learning the material suits you best. This may involve collaboration with other students. We believe, however, that most people will get the maximum benefit from the homework if they try hard to do all the problems themselves before consulting others. In any case, whatever you turn in should represent your own solution, expressed in your own words, even if this solution was arrived at with help from someone else. Remember, you are doing the homework in order to learn the material; don't try to defeat the purpose of it.

Problems on the midterm and final exams will be similar to the homework. I encourage you to work out as many problems as you can, not just what has been assigned — this will improve your problem-solving skills and build confidence. Solutions to homework problems must be neatly written or typed. Put your name on the top of each page and STAPLE THE PAGES. Only selected problem sets will be collected and only selected problems will be graded. Read more tips on doing homework at my webpage.

Late and missed assignments Late assignments will not be accepted. Late or missed homework assignments and exams receive zero points. Keep in mind that anything that you miss may be required later in the course. It is better to keep up with the pace than to be overwhelmed later on!

Make-up exams There is a small range of situations (serious accident or illness, family emergency, certain university sponsored activities) in which a make-up exam may be given. Please, inform me in writing (email is fine) as far in advance as possible. I will require substantiating written documentation for every make-up exam. Note that a personal trip is not a valid excuse for a make-up and that no make-ups will be given early.

Add/drop policy You may add or drop online, consistently with the University's scheduled dates. Deadline for dropping without penalty is September 21, 2009. Consult the academic calendar for other information.

Discipline and academic integrity Your behavior should conform to the Student Code of Conduct, see the Student Handbook. The State University of New York at Oswego is committed to maintaining rigorous intellectual standards and the highest level of academic integrity. Read the official explanation of the University Policy on Academic Integrity in the College Catalogue or on the Registrar's website. Note in particular that academic dishonesty of any kind related to the course may result in the assignment of a failing grade and a disciplinary action by the University.

Special needs students SUNY Oswego is committed to meeting the needs of all students with disabilities. In order to receive special accommodations, you must be registered with Disability Services, 183 Campus Center. You are requested to appraise me of your status as early in the semester as possible.