

MA 237.101 LINEAR ALGEBRA I Fall 2005

MWF 9:05-9:55 a.m. ILB 410

Instructor: Dr. Victoria Sadovskaya. You may call me Victoria.
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Office phone: 460-6264 ext. 2622
Office hours: MWF 10-11 a.m., or by appointment
Course homepage: www.southalabama.edu/mathstat/personal_pages/sadovska/237/237.html

Prerequisite: MA 126.

Objectives: The goal of this course is to familiarize students with the fundamental concepts of linear algebra. The course will also strengthen reasoning and problem-solving skills. Ideas and techniques that you will learn are widely used in other areas of mathematics, as well as in natural sciences, engineering, and computer sciences.

Text: *Linear Algebra: A Pure and Applied First Course (1st edition)* by E. Goodaire.

Coverage: We will cover most of Chapters 1-5 and parts of Chapters 6 and 8 of the text. The topics include the geometry of the plane and 3-space, matrices, linear equations, determinants, eigenvalues and eigenvectors, vector spaces, and linear transformations.

Calculator: You must have a TI-89 or equivalent graphics calculator. The instructor will be using a TI-89 calculator. *Note:* You will not be allowed to use calculators on some of the quizzes and exams. It will be specified for each test whether calculators can be used.

Attendance policy: Regular attendance and participation are expected. Come to class prepared with an understanding of the previous material and some idea of what we are going to discuss. Although attendance and participation do not count directly toward your grade, they will be considered in determining borderline grades. You are responsible for finding out what you missed on days when you are unable to attend.

Homework: A homework assignment will be given at the end of every class. These assignments will not be collected, but similar problems will appear on quizzes and exams. Completing the homework assignments is essential for learning the material and succeeding in the course.

After every class, read over the relevant section of the book, answering the “Reading Challenge” questions. Also, take a look at the section we are going to cover next time.

Quizzes: There will be a quiz every Wednesday, except for the exam weeks. Quiz problems will be similar to previously assigned homework problems. There will be no make-up quizzes, but the two lowest scores will be dropped.

Exams: There will be two in-class exams and a two-hour final exam. The final will be cumulative, but the material covered after the second midterm will be emphasized.

Exam 1:	Wednesday, October 5
Exam 2:	Wednesday, November 9
Final Exam:	Friday, December 16, 8-10 a.m.

All students must plan to take exams at the scheduled times. If you are unable to attend an exam you should contact me promptly, before the exam if possible. A compelling reason for absence, such as illness or a family emergency, will entitle you to a make-up exam. Otherwise, the score for the missed test will be zero.

Note: Books and notes cannot be used on *any* tests. You are allowed one 3" by 5" note card for each midterm and up to three 3" by 5" note cards for the final exam.

Final grade computation: Your final score will be calculated as follows:

Quizzes:	30%
Exam 1:	20%
Exam 2:	20%
Final Exam:	30%

Your letter grade will be determined according to the standard scale:

A: at least 90%; B: at least 80%; C: at least 70%; D: at least 60%; F: below 60%.

Note: The requirements and the policies may be modified as circumstances dictate. Such changes will be announced in class and posted on the course homepage.

Notification of course grades: Final grades can be obtained on line from the Registrar's Office.

Departmental tutoring: Free tutoring is available from the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. Check the bulletin board outside ILB 325 for details or visit

<http://www.southalabama.edu/mathstat/css-coursehelp.shtml>

Dropping: The last day to drop from a course is Friday, November 11. Please speak with me before making a final decision to drop the class.

Academic accommodations: If you have a specific disability that qualifies you for academic accommodations, please notify me and provide certification from the Office of Special Student Services. This office is directed by Ms. Bernita Pulmas and is located in the Student Center, Room 270, Phone 460-7212.