MTH215 INTRODUCTION TO LINEAR ALGEBRA

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND SUMMER(I) 2005

Instructor: Lubos Thoma
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Class Schedule: TuTh 6pm - 9.45pm, Shepard Building Providence
Office hours: TuTh before class in Shephard Building and by appointment
Class webpage: You will find a link to our web page at http://www.math.uri.edu/∼thoma
The exact address is:
http://www.math.uri.edu/∼thoma/teaching/mth215_summer2005/mth215.html

Textbook: J. Fraleigh, R. Beauregard, Linear Algebra, third edition, Addison - Wesley Publ. 1995.

The easiest way to learn a topic is to understand the ideas. From the ideas one can easily recover all the technical details. In order to understand the topic well, please feel always free to interrupt and to ask me during the classes whenever you do not understand something. Questions are always highly appreciated.

Topics to be covered: Matrices and systems of linear equations, linear transformations, vector spaces, bases, determinants, eigenvalues and eigenvectors, orthogonality.

A detailed schedule can be found on the class webpage.

Tutoring: Tutors are available at both the Providence and Kingston campuses. Check with them for specific hours. Also, you can make an individual appointment with me.

Exams and Evaluation:
There will be two in-class exams. The dates can be found in the class schedule. A comprehensive final will be given during the last day of classes, June 23, 2005. The two in-class exams will count for 25% of your grade each, the final exam 30%, and the remaining 20% of your grade will be based on assigned homework.

Missed exams: Makeup exams will be given only in the case of severe illness or other extreme emergency on the day of the exam. If you do not take an exam and I have not heard from you by 10:00pm on exam day, you will receive a zero for the exam.

Incompletes: University policy on "incomplete" grades will be strictly applied.

Accommodations: Students who require accommodations and who have documentation from Disability Services (874-2098) should make arrangements with me as soon as possible.

Class attendance: Class attendance is *expected and strongly encouraged*. You are responsible for everything in class; anything announced in class, any material covered, any handouts or assignments etc., i.e., it is your responsibility to make sure you are aware of what takes place in class.

Suggested problems: Suggested problems are given for all sections that we cover in class. Do as many of these as possible and keep the solutions. You must be self disciplined to do all of the suggested problems and to make sure each one is done correctly. Doing all the homework is essential. It helps you to practice doing all of the problems so that you can do them quickly enough when the time comes to take a test.

Calculator: You will find your graphing calculator to be helpful, but not essential for this course. You will need at least a scientific calculator.
Since the methods of linear algebra are widely applicable, there are many programs for linear algebra. There are several other program systems widely available: Matlab, Maple, and Mathematica. To supplement our class material, you can find several Maple worksheets demonstrating concepts covered in class on our webpage. These give you a way to practice computations and have your work corrected. There are computational exercises in the exercise sections of our textbook. They are a good practice.