

# Spring 2009 - Math 240

## Introduction to Linear Algebra

**Lectures:** MWF 2:00pm- 2:50pm (ARM 0131)

**Instructor:** Prof. A. Mellet  
Office: Math Building 4104  
Email: mellet@math.umd.edu

**Course web page:** Lectures schedule, homework assignments, grades and other important informations regarding the class will be posted on Blackboard. To access Blackboard, go to <http://www.elms.umd.edu>.

**Text and Course Materials:**

Lay, *Linear Algebra and Its Applications*, 3rd ed., Addison-Wesley.  
Lay, *Study Guide*, 3rd ed. (for Linear Algebra and Its Applications), Addison-Wesley.

**Exams:** There will be three midterm exams and one final exam. The midterm exams will be held during the lecture sessions on the following dates:

Midterm 1: Friday February 20

Midterm 2: Friday March 27

Midterm 3: Friday May 1

The Final exam will take place on Thursday May 14 (1:30-3:30 pm).

**Quizzes:** An important use of Blackboard will be to administer online quizzes, to help you learn the course material. Most quiz questions can be answered by reading the text carefully. The schedule of lectures shows the tentative date each quiz is to be completed and identifies the text section on which the quiz is based.

You should read the text carefully before starting a quiz, and keep your text open for reference while taking the quiz. Once you start a quiz, you will have twenty minutes in which to complete it (typically, students spend between five and ten minutes on a quiz). If your internet connection fails, sign on again immediately in order to complete the quiz within the 20 minutes. Most quizzes will consist of five questions: true/false questions or multiple choice questions (which ask you to decide whether a certain statement is always true, sometimes true, or never true). After you read each question, select an answer and "save" it. You may change an answer and resave it at any time until you press Finish. Blackboard will grade your quiz and display the results, with comments about each question.

The quizzes are conducted on the honor system. No two students will have exactly the same quiz, but the questions will be similar and cover the same basic material. You should have your book open for reference, but you must not communicate with any other person about the quiz while taking the quiz. Also, you should not look at any other student's quiz before taking your own quiz.

To help you learn the quiz system, you may take each of the first two quizzes two times each, with only the higher scores counted.

**Homework:** Homework is THE MOST IMPORTANT part of class, and even if you think you understand the book/lectures you really don't until you have worked out examples on your own. Success in the course is highly correlated with regular attendance and punctual completion of homework. The lecture schedule/homework assignment sheet lists the due dates for each assignment. Homework should be written neatly and are to be turned in at the end of discussion session on their due date (I recommend doing homework problems daily at the same pace as the lectures).

You may consult other students regarding your homework, but the final write-up should be done on your own (in other words, no copying). Copying solutions from each other violates University of Maryland, College Park's Code of Academic Integrity and is strictly prohibited.

You must write your name, and section number at the top of each homework. The papers must be stapled or placed in a binder. Loose papers cannot be accepted. If you expect to miss a discussion session, you may give your homework to a classmate to turn in.

**NO LATE HOMEWORK WILL BE ACCEPTED.** However, the two lowest homework grades will be dropped.

**MATLAB:** The computer software MATLAB will be used throughout the course. The few commands we use in this course will be easy to learn. The Study Guide contains an "Introduction to MATLAB" in the first Appendix, followed by an index of useful commands. The Guide also explains how to use special MATLAB programs that have been designed for this course. The programs themselves, along with data files for all the numerical exercises in the text, are available on the WAM and Glue installations of MATLAB and in the OWL lab in the basement of the math building. For information on software, tutoring and locations see the Math. Dept. resources page

<http://www.math.umd.edu/undergraduate/resources/>

(check in particular the Matlab tutoring link and the Computer Resources link)

Homework problems requiring the use of Matlab are marked [M] in the book. Such problems, when assigned, will almost always be graded.

**Grading Scheme:** Your final grade will be computed as follows:

Midterms	45% (15% each)
Final	30%
Homework	15%
Quizzes	10%

**Make-up:** In principle, there will be **no make-up exams**. Permission to write a makeup midterm may be granted (or other arrangements made) in the following exceptional circumstances: (a) prior notice of a valid, documented absence (e.g. out-of-town varsity athletic commitment) on the scheduled exam date; or (b) notification to the instructor within 48 hours of absence due to medical condition. Original **written documentation**, for example a doctors note or letter from a coach, is always required.

**Email:** When writing an email, you must include your course number, section and name in the message. Also, because I receive hundreds of emails, I may not have time to respond to some simple email questions whose answers can be found by other means (such as going to class or looking at the course web page on Blackboard). If you miss a class, you should get the notes from another student in the class. Of course, if you are missing class for an extended time (such as illness or other serious problem), you should contact me as soon as possible.

**Students with disabilities:** The University of Maryland provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Please see me immediately if you require such accommodation (do not wait until the day before the first exam).

**Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty:** You are expected to abide by the University's policy on academic integrity. All cases of academic dishonesty will be referred to the Dean of Students Office.