Instructor: Dr. Sean Ellermeyer, SC 524, (770) 423-6129 (Math dept: (770) 423-6327),
email: sellerme@kennesaw.edu, Web Site: http://math.kennesaw.edu/~sellerme

Time and Location: Monday and Wednesday, 8:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m., Room BB 382A.

Office Hours: By Appointment


Other Required Materials: TI-83 Graphing Calculator or equivalent (one that can do matrix operations).

Course Description: This is a first course in linear algebra. Some topics to be included
in the course are systems of linear equations, vectors, matrices, linear transformations, invertibility, determinants, vector spaces, and applications.

Grading: There will be four one-hour exams and a comprehensive two-hour final exam.
The exam dates are listed in the course outline. Your solutions to each exam problem will
be graded according to the following scheme:

- 20 points – if your solution is correct (including a correct conclusion) and your
  solution is well written. By “well-written”, I mean that I am able to easily follow your
  reasoning, no important details are omitted from your solution, correct notation is used, etc.
  Essentially, you will get 20 points if your solution is correct and I don’t have to struggle in
determining that it is correct. 20 points is equivalent to a “high A”.

- 16 points – if your solution is correct (including a correct conclusion) but I have to
  struggle in determining that it is correct due to unclear writing, incorrect use of mathematical
  notation, or for whatever reason. 16 points is equivalent to a “borderline A– B”.

- 10 points – if your solution is not correct (even though your conclusion may be
  correct) but you have made a very good start (that is well-written and easy to follow and
uses correct mathematical notation) and have provided the majority of a correct solution.
  Essentially, 10 points means high partial credit and is equivalent to a “mid– level C”.

- 4 points – if your solution is not correct (even though your conclusion may be
  correct) but at least the beginnings of a correct solution are discernible (meaning that I can
tell that you have studied the relevant material and are at least able to get started on writing
a solution). Essentially, 4 points means low partial credit and is equivalent to a “borderline
D– F”.

- 0 points – if partial credit is not warranted. 0 points is equivalent to a “low F”.

Please note that the terms “correct solution” and “correct conclusion” (as used in the
grading descriptions above) do not mean the same thing! It is absolutely essential, in writing
solutions, that you provide sufficient details that show how you arrive at your conclusions.
I (the reader) must be able to see what your reasoning process is. Thus it is possible, for
example, to write down a correct conclusion and end up with 0 points (because I can’t tell
how you arrived at your conclusion). Also, keep in mind that correct statements that you
write can be “cancelled” by incorrect statements that you write. For example, if you write
only statement X and statement X is a correct beginning of the solution to the problem, then
you might be awarded 4 points. However, if you write statements X and Y where statement
X is correct and relevant but statement Y is incorrect or contradicts statement X, then you could be given 0 points.

Your grade on each exam will be calculated by averaging your scores on each individual question and then rounding this average to the nearest tenth. For example, suppose that a certain exam contains 7 questions and your scores on these questions are 16, 20, 10, 10, 4, 16, and 0. When we average these numbers, we get approximately 10.857. Rounded to the nearest tenth, we get 10.9. Therefore your score on this exam would be 10.9 (and your letter grade for the exam would be C). Number ranges and letter grades will have the following correspondence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16–20</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12–15.9</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8–11.9</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4–7.9</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0–3.9</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Your final grade at the end of the course will be calculated according to

\[
\text{Sum of Hour Exam Scores + Final Exam Score} \over 5
\]

with the result being rounded to the nearest tenth and a final course grade being assigned as in the above table. **However**, before performing the above calculation, the lowest hour-exam score will be dropped and replaced with the final exam score (if the final exam score is higher than the lowest hour exam score). In summary: 1) If your final exam score is higher than your lowest hour exam score, then your lowest hour exam score will be disregarded and your final exam score will be worth 2/5 (or 40%) of your final grade for the course. 2) If your final exam score is lower than all of your hour exam scores, then your final exam score will be worth 1/5 (or 20%) of your grade for the course.

**Important Note:** There will be no make-up exams for any reason (legitimate or not legitimate)! Occasionally, students miss exams for legitimate reasons such as illness and automobile mishaps. If you must miss an exam for a legitimate reason, please inform me as soon as possible. If your reason for missing the exam is legitimate, then you will be excused from it and your grade on the portion of the final exam that addresses the material of the missed exam will be used as your grade for the missed exam. In order to be excused from an exam, you must provide written documentation from a doctor (in the case of illness) or from the police (in the case of an auto accident) that states the reason why you were not able to be at KSU on the day of the exam. In some cases in which a student knows ahead of time, and informs me at least one week in advance, that he or she will not be able to be present on an exam day, I allow the student to take the exam early (but not after the official exam day).

**Grades of “Incomplete”:** Grades of “Incomplete” (I) are given, at the instructor’s discretion, to students who have been doing satisfactory work (at least a C average) up until the last two weeks of the semester but who, for some unavoidable reason, are unable to complete the work of the last two weeks of the semester. No decisions about grades (including grades of Incomplete) will be made until the semester (including the final exam) is finished. Occasionally, students ask me if I will give them a grade of “Incomplete”. This request is usually made at some point before the last two weeks of the semester. I can’t answer such
requests since I do not make any grading decisions until the semester is over. If I see that an "Incomplete" grade is warranted, then I will give that grade (without being asked). I very rarely assign grades of "Incomplete" because I have found that they are usually not warranted. All incomplete work must be made up (and the I grade changed to a regular grade, A, B, C, D, or F) as quickly as possible, typically before the start of the next semester.

**Academic Honesty:** No cheating of any kind will be tolerated. If you are caught cheating in this course (this includes things such as looking at hidden notes or books or looking at somebody else's exam paper while taking an exam), your name will be placed on record in the KSU Judiciary Office. You will also be given a grade of F for the course. More severe penalties such as suspension or expulsion might also ensue. Please read the attached document regarding academic honesty.