

MATH304 – Linear Algebra, Spring 2012
Section 502, TR 9:35am-10:50am, Location: CE 222
Section 503, TR 12:45pm-2:00pm, Location: CE 222

About your instructor:

Name: Paula Tretkoff

Office: Milner 332

E-mail: paulatretkoff-at-neo.tamu.edu *include MATH304 in title*

Web page: <http://www.math.tamu.edu/~ptretkoff/>

Office Hours (in Milner 332)

Tuesdays: 11:00am - 12:00pm,

Thursdays: 8:00am - 9:00am and 11:00am - 12:00pm,

or by appointment.

Required text: *Linear Algebra with Applications*, by S.J. Leon, 8th edition, Prentice Hall, ISBN: 978-0-13-600929-0

Departmental Course Website for MATH304

Go to: <http://www.math.tamu.edu/courses>, then click on “Course Listing”, then click on “MATH304”, then click on “Course Description and Schedule”.

Course Description:

MATH304, Linear Algebra, is a course for engineering, computer science, and mathematics education majors. The equation of a line in two-dimensional real (x, y) -space is often written $y = mx + b$. Here, x and y are the variables, which may vary, and m and b are the coefficients, which are fixed or given in advance. In Linear Algebra, we consider equations, and systems of equations, which generalize the equation of a line to arbitrary dimensions (although many of our examples take place in dimension 2, 3 or 4). Such equations arise naturally in many applications in science and engineering. The study of systems of linear equations is facilitated by introducing matrices, which form an algebra. The emphasis in this course will be on applications and problem solving, although some theory involving simple proofs is required. Please consult the syllabus for more details.

Exams: There will be three in-class exams, and a final exam. The final exam will be in two parts, a take-home due before the official final exam period, and a multiple-choice exam at the designated final exam time. A *tentative* schedule for these exams is as follows. Only the date of the final exams is not subject to change. I reserve the right to change the dates of the in-class exams as well as the particular selection of topics from the syllabus to suit the needs of the class and my own commitments.

In-class Exam I: Thursday, February 16

In-class Exam II: Tuesday, March 20

In-class Exam III: Tuesday, April 17

Final (Take-home): Questions set on Thursday, April 19, due on Thursday, April 26.

Final (Multiple-choice): Friday, May 4 in CE 222; 7:30am - 9:30am (Section 502); 12:30pm - 2:30pm (Section 503).

You must take **all exams**, in-class and final, at the time designated for the section in which you are **officially enrolled**, no exceptions! The exams for the two sections will not be identical and any curving of grades will be done separately for each section.

Weekly Homework Assignments: Each week, usually on a Thursday, starting week 3 (i.e. starting February 2), you will be assigned homework to be completed by the following Thursday. This homework will be graded and returned to you in class on the Thursday after that (two weeks from assignment of homework to return of graded homework).

Grading Scheme: Final grades will be determined by 3 in-class exams, a comprehensive final in 2 parts (take-home and multiple-choice), weekly homework, and attendance, as follows:

In-class exam I is worth 15%, and in-class exams II and III are each worth 20% of the final grade. The homework counts for 10%. The two lowest homework grades will be dropped. The take-home part of the final exam is worth 15% and the multiple-choice part 10%. The increased weight of the two final exams taken together reflects the cumulative nature of the course. Attendance is worth 10% of the final grade and will be taken in each class as of January 31: up to 5 recorded absences will be ignored (that is, you can be absent up to 5 times starting January 31 without losing points for attendance).

The final grade for the course is determined as follows:

No lower than A= 90%-100%, No lower than B= 80%-89%, No lower than C=70%-79%, No lower than D=60%-69%, F=0%-59%.

I may curve the grades slightly as a function of the overall performance of the entire class.

Make-ups: Make-ups for major exams will be given only in case of an absence authorized under University Regulations. You will need a note from your doctor or your academic advisor. If you have trouble reaching me, leave a message with the MATH departmental secretaries (845-7554) and be sure to leave your phone number. You must, by leaving a written or phone message with the departmental secretaries, or by e-mailing me directly, request a make-up exam **within 2 business days** from the day of the exam you miss.

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