

Math 220—Information about the Class

Prof. J. Dietz

Spring '08

• Miscellaneous Info

Office: Old Music Hall 306
Phone: x3936
Email: dietz@stolaf.edu
Web: www.stolaf.edu/people/dietz
Text: *Linear Algebra: A Modern Introduction, 2nd ed* by D. Poole
Calculator: something with matrix/linear algebra capabilities such as the TI-89

• Office Hours

Monday 12-1
Tuesday 2:40-3:40
Wednesday 3-4
Thursday 3:45-4:45
Friday 11-12

• Goals

- To teach you the language of matrix algebra.
- To help you understand linear algebra symbolically, geometrically, and abstractly.
- To introduce you to abstract, axiomatic systems as preparation for theoretical courses in mathematics.
- To show you a few applications of linear algebra to other scientific and social science fields.

• Requirements

- **Homework:** You will be given daily homework assignments from the text. Assignments can be found on Moodle. Additionally, you will have *Maple* lab work and occasional special projects to submit. Homework is due two class periods after it is assigned. I will not answer questions in class on the day an assignment is due.
- **Reading:** I expect you to *read* the textbook, not just look up your homework assignments in it. To encourage you to read the text, you will often be given an online reading assignment via Moodle that is due before the start of class on a particular day. A reading assignment is only graded in the sense that you pass if you make a good faith effort to do it (no matter how well you do it), and fail otherwise.
- **Exams:** Three in-class exams will be given during the term. See below for exam dates. There will be a comprehensive take-home final exam.

• Evaluation

The various components of the course will be weighted as shown below. The “miscellaneous” 10% will be added to the best of your four exam grades. Doing this helps you downplay a bad exam and emphasize a good one.

Requirement	Weight
Homework	15%
Reading Assignments	5%
3 Term Exams	15% each
Final	25%
Miscellaneous	10%

Grading in Linear Algebra has historically followed a standard “curve,” with 90% being the bottom of the A’s, 80% being the bottom of the B’s and so on. You can find a detailed grading scale on my web page.

• Exam Dates are tentatively scheduled for

Exam 1 Monday, 3/3
Exam 2 Friday, 4/4
Exam 3 Monday, 4/28

Final Exam Section B (12:55): due by 4pm on Wed 5/21 and Section C (2:00): due by 4pm on Tues 5/20

Make-up exams will only be given under very special circumstances and will usually require consultation with the Dean of Students Office.

- **Disability Accommodations**

If you have a documented disability for which accommodations may be required in this class, please contact Ruth Bolstad (bolstadr@stolaf.edu) or Connie Ford (ford@stolaf.edu) in the Academic Support Center (x3288) located at the back of the Modular Village. If you already have documentation on file with Student Disability Services in the Academic Support Center you are required to present your letters to the professor within the first two weeks of class.

- **Expectations of Students**

- The plagiarism policy can be found at <http://www.stolaf.edu/stulife/thebook/academic/plagiarism.html>
- General comments about St. Olaf's grade and marking system can be found at <http://www.stolaf.edu/catalog/academicregs/counting-courses.html>
- The Code of Student Conduct can be found at <http://www.stolaf.edu/stulife/thebook/official/article4.html>