Math 447/547 - MWF 9-10

Instructor
Brian Martensen
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Required Text


Prerequisites

Math 345 with a grade at least a C.

Course Objective

This course is designed to demonstrate the power of the standard techniques of Linear Algebra. In particular, the selection of textbook and course material is meant to illuminate how the theoretical advances in Linear Algebra are applied in a sampling of Mathematics. The student is expected to master the proof techniques of the standard results in the field as well as their application. The course has frequent exams that are designed to prepare the Master’s students for the Linear Algebra portion of the comprehensive exam in their program.

Schedule

- Exam 1: Covers Chapters 2 & 3, February 5
- Exam 2: Covers Chapters 4 & 5, March 19
- Exam 3: Covers Chapters 6 & 7, April 21
- Final Exam & El Cinco de Mayo Celebration: Cumulative, May 5

Grading

There will be 12-14 homework assignments, of which I will drop the lowest two and average the remaining to obtain a homework grade. These assignments are hard and mastering them is the key to success in this class.

There will be three exams given throughout the semester and a cumulative final exam. Make-ups will be granted only in the case of documented extreme medical emergency.

In determining your semester grade, we will take each of the three exams, your final exam twice and your homework grade to arrive at 6 scores. I will take the highest 4 of these 6 scores to arrive at your semester average.

Earning a course average of 90% will guarantee you an A, 80% a B, etc. I may lower these percentages, but I will not raise them.

Classroom participation will only raise my opinion of you, which can affect your grade, so ask and answer questions. If you wish to argue about points assigned, you must do so within a week of the return of the work in question. Further, I reserve the right to lower your points if I feel you are merely haggling.
What you can do now to help your final grade

READ! READ! READ! I hope that you will find the lectures brilliant and stimulating, but I simply will not go over every detail of the book in class. You will be tested over many of those details. It is my strongest advice that you read each section at least twice. However, reading it twice in a row will do you little, if any, good. You should plan to read each section once before you do the assignment on it and once after.

Students are strongly encouraged to work together and discuss homework. By working with someone else you will be learning to communicate in Mathematics. Ideally, you should discuss the homework with other students and then do the homework on your own. Each student must hand in his or her own work for any collected assignments, even if the ideas were created jointly.

Take advantage of my office hours!
Read!
Do the Homework on time!
Keep your hands and feet inside the classroom at all times!
And Please, No Flash Photography!