

Math 2373, IT Linear Algebra and Differential Equations (Fall 2009)
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities Campus

COURSE SUPERVISOR:

Prof. Chester Miracle (VinH 234, 5-2095, miracle@math.umn.edu)

However, questions about the course should be directed to the lecturer and workshop leader for your class.

TEXTS: Purchase course packets at Alpha Print. Get the first one ASAP.

CALCULATORS: On exams, any calculator is permitted, but we draw the line at laptops – these are forbidden. You are required to have a calculator, but it need not be any fancier than a cheap scientific calculator capable of handling square roots, logarithms and trig functions. Homework and exam problems are always formulated so that you can do them by hand with occasional help from a cheap scientific calculator. But if you choose to buy a graphing calculator, then before you buy make sure it is capable of evaluating determinants and can reduce matrices to row echelon form. There are lots of used graphing calculators for sale.

EXAMS: (all times p.m.)

Thurs., October 8: Midterm (5:00-6:00 or 6:00-7:00)

Thurs., November 5: Midterm (5:00-6:00 or 6:00-7:00)

Thurs., December 10: Midterm (5:00-6:00 or 6:00-7:00)

Thursday, December 17: Final (1:30-4:30)

Office hours, office locations, exam locations are announced in class.

MAKE-UPS (for one-time extraordinary events)

Exam absences due to recognized University-related activities, religious holidays, verifiable illness, and family/medical emergencies will be dealt with on an individual basis. In all cases of absence from exams a written excuse is required for a make-up to be granted. Ignorance of the time and place of an exam will not be accepted as an excuse for absence from an exam. If you do not take an exam you will be assigned a grade of zero for that exam.

MAKE-UPS (for recurring conflicts with classes or work)

If you have a class to attend, or a job to hold down every Thursday evening during the semester, or a similar recurring conflict, you must inform your workshop leader in person during the third week of the semester. (We'll remind you about this in workshop in the third week.) You must supply written documentation, e.g. a print-out of your class schedule, or a signed note from your supervisor at work. You will then take the exam on the next day during the day.

IN-COMPLETES: We will consider giving you an incomplete only if some severe, unexpected event prevents you from completing the course AND you have taken at least 2 midterms AND to date you have been doing work at the C level or better. If we grant an incomplete, you will have to sign a contract stating exactly what you must do to complete the course. We do not grant incompletes just because you've gotten behind in your work.

You may drop without permission from any class up through the 8th week of the semester.

S/N GRADE: If you are registered S/N we will submit a grade of S if your letter grade is C- or above, and otherwise a grade of N.

SPECIAL NEEDS: Please inform us of any accommodations granted by Disability Services within the first two weeks of class. If you have special needs you should contact Disability Services at 624-4037.

PROCEDURE FOR CALCULATING GRADES IN MATH 2373

STEP 1. For each student the workshop leader will compute a *total score* (on a scale of 0-1000) by adding up:

- *midterm exam scores* (each on a scale of 0-150)
- *homework scores* (total score on a scale of 0-150)
- *lab scores* (total score on a scale of 0-100)
- *final exam score* (on a scale of 0-300)

STEP 2. Workshop leaders will assign letter grades based solely on the total score computed by the procedure above, according to gradelines set by the lecturers. Lecturers have the final say on grades.

MIDTERMS: There are three midterm exams, each about 60 minutes long and given on a Thursday evening. The ground rules are closed book, closed notes, open calculator and not “cheat sheets” other than those we may provide. Scientific and graphing calculators are allowed on exams, but laptops, cell-phones, ipods, etc are not allowed. You may not have notes stored in your calculator. Please use the results of the first midterm to help you decide whether or not you’re in trouble, and should either drop the course or get extra help.

HOMEWORK: Homework is assigned once a week and is due on Tuesdays in workshop at the *beginning* of class. Occasionally homework assignments are due on Thursdays that are exam days. While we encourage you to discuss homework problems with your classmates, when you actually write up your solutions we insist that you do this on your own. Handing in homework that is almost identical to a classmate’s is a form of cheating and will not be tolerated. Your homework must be neatly, clearly and logically written. Staple your homework together. You are required to show methods of solution, not just final answers, and to explain yourself with reasonable clarity. You will lose homework points if you fail to meet any of these standards.

LABS: Each week you spend 50 minutes in the lab interacting with MATLAB and you are expected to produce a report on your laboratory activities, at the beginning of lab the next week. No credit for late labs. We discourage verbatim transcription of all your interactions with the computer – that’s way too much to read. We want a report containing just enough computer printout and additional commentary to answer all the questions on the lab handout and to convince us that you understood your assignment.

FINAL EXAM: The final exam is three hours long. Questions will be in the same format as on the midterms. The ground rules are the same as for the midterms. Closed book,

closed notes, open calculator. Please note the date and time of the final exam. You commit to that date and time when you sign up for the course.

For University GRADING STANDARDS and standards of SCHOLASTIC CONDUCT, see the official University policies.

Finally: STUDENTS ARE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ALL COURSE CONTENT DELIVERED IN CLASS AND IN WORKSHOP. All official announcements occur in class only. We will not make extraordinary efforts to contact students outside of lecture and recitation. Those who choose not to attend class do so at considerable peril to their grade.