Instructor: Christopher Ramsussen  
Email: crasmussen  
Phone: ×2315

Lectures: TTh 10:30 – 11:50 a.m., ESC 109
Recitations: TBA
Office Hours: TTh 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. and by appointment, ESC 649
Teaching Assistants: TBA


Goal: This course is an introduction to the topics of linear algebra and real vector spaces. It has a slightly more theoretical flavor than its counterpart, MATH 221: Vectors and Matrices. Still, the content of the two courses are rather similar. We will study the theory of abstract vector spaces and linear transformations over the real numbers, as well as the practical skills involved with matrix algebra. The geometric interpretation of vectors will guide us at times, although this will not be the primary emphasis of the course.

Office Hours: Throughout the semester, I will hold weekly office hours to answer any questions about the course material. I am also happy to meet with students at other times, but please make an appointment with me in advance if possible. In addition, there will be optional evening recitations, with the location and time to be announced.

Attendance: Students are expected to attend every class. Further, it is the student’s responsibility to keep informed of any announcements, syllabus adjustments, or policy changes made during scheduled classes. You are responsible for all announcements made in class.

Homework: Homework will be assigned weekly and must be turned in to the folder by my office door by 4:00 p.m. each Wednesday. Selected problems from the assignment will be graded; however, you are responsible for understanding all the problems on the assignment. No late homework will be accepted. Your lowest weekly homework score will be dropped and all others will be averaged to determine your final homework grade. Your homework should conform to the following standards:

- Your assignment should be stapled, with your full name written on the first page of the assignment.
- State each problem before presenting the solution. Unless stated otherwise, you are expected to provide a justification for your answers; a correct solution with incomplete explanation is unlikely to earn full credit.
- Your solutions should be easy for the grader to read. Write in complete sentences, and use all notation correctly. Use clear handwriting. Do not squeeze solutions into margins, use several columns, or solve problems out of order. Write only on one side of each sheet of paper.

Homework assignments that do not meet these standards may receive a grade of zero from the grader. For homework, you are encouraged to work together to find solutions. Discussing mathematics with another person will improve your understanding and help eliminate confusion. However, each student must write up his or her assignment individually, in their own voice or style. Identical or near-identical solutions from multiple students will be considered an act of plagiarism and referred to the Honor Board as a suspected violation of the Honor Code.
Exams: This course will have two in class mid-term exams and one final exam. They are scheduled as follows:

- **Midterm I**  Tuesday, March 4
- **Midterm II**  Tuesday, April 15
- **Final Exam**  Thursday, May 15, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

If you have a scheduling conflict with a midterm exam, please contact me **at least one week in advance** so that we may make alternative arrangements. The scheduled time for the final is set by the registrar and cannot be changed.

Grading: Your final course grade will be determined from your grades on homework, midterm exams, and the final exam, as follows:

- Homework  20%
- Midterm I  25%
- Midterm II  25%
- Final Exam  30%

Disability Support: It is the policy of Wesleyan University to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. As your instructor, I am willing and eager to support you in this regard. Please note that students are responsible for registering with Disabilities Services, and should make requests known to me in a timely manner. If you require accommodations in this class, please speak with me during the first two weeks of the semester, so that appropriate arrangements can be made. The procedures for registering with Disability Services can be found at [http://www.wesleyan.edu/deans/disability-students.html](http://www.wesleyan.edu/deans/disability-students.html).

Success: There is no guaranteed recipe for success in a mathematics course. Nevertheless, over many years of teaching, strong patterns have emerged. I have found the most successful students tend to:

- Attend every class meeting,
- Study or work in small groups **after** making a serious first attempt on their own,
- Seek help as soon as they recognize something they don’t understand,
- Make use of office hours, recitations, and/or the Math Workshop.