Math 235.2: Introduction to Linear Algebra
Fall 2010: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2:30–3:45, Goessmann 51

Professor: Rob Kusner, LGRT 1435G (Office [54]5-6022) & LGRT 1535 (GANG Lab [54]5-4605)

· e-mail: `kusner@math.umass.edu`
· website: `www.gang.umass.edu/~kusner/class/classes.html`
· webwork: `webwork.math.umass.edu/webwork2/MATH_235_2_F10`
· office hours: before class (from noonish/lunchtime, by appointment)

The text, *Linear Algebra with Applications, 4E* (or *3E*) by Otto Bretscher, is appealing because of its emphasis on the geometric aspects of linear algebra. Please read Appendix A (on vectors), the preface and the text outline. We shall cover all the topics indicated there, through chapter 7.

On my website (www.gang.umass.edu/~kusner/class/235hw) you can find the schedule of topics (updated weekly), free hints and advice, or what homework is due when.

Class attendance is expected. Besides the value of class participation, there may be a few in-class quizzes from time to time which you won't want to miss!

Study for this course at least 9 hours per week, going over your notes (soon after class) with pen in hand, checking our calculations. Read the suggested problems in the book first, think about them as you read the text, then do these problems. Repeat this process. Repeat this process. Repeat this....

There will be a pair of in-class mini-midterms, a (joint) mid-term exam covering material through chapter 3 and some of 4, occuring around pumpkin-time (.......................... in ....), and a (joint) comprehensive final exam (........................... in ....).

Meeting deadlines is essential. Homework will be assigned on WebWorK, in class, and from the text. It will normally be discussed on Thursdays. No late homework will be accepted, and there are no "make-up" quizzes, but a small portion of the homework and quiz scores will be disregarded, so students need not panic about missing an assignment here or there.

Absence from an exam (mid-term or final) is not excusable except under extreme circumstances; such absence makes life difficult for everyone.

Grading will be based in (roughly) equal parts on the homework and quizzes, on the mini-midterms, on the mid-term exam, and on the final exam.