

**Math 203: Linear Algebra**

**TR 2-3:15; Wright 105**

CRN 10163, Fall 2009

**Instructor: Dr. Katherine Brandl**  
<http://personal.centenary.edu/~kbrandl>

**Office: 108 Wright**

**Office Hours** I will be in my office to answer questions on Monday 2-4, Wednesday 2-3 and Thursday 11-12. Additional office hours to be announced. I am also available by appointment. In fact, if my door is open feel free to come in.

**Text** *Linear Algebra and its Applications*, third edition, David Lay, Pearson/Addison Wesley, 0-321-28713-4.

**Notes** The first paragraph of the section 'A Note to Students' in your text reads:

*"This course is potentially the most interesting and worthwhile undergraduate mathematics course you will complete. In fact, some students have written or spoken to me after graduation and said that they still use this text occasionally as a reference in their careers at several major corporations and engineering graduate schools."*

Linear Algebra is an extremely useful area of mathematics with applications all over the place: Economics, Chemistry, Physics, Engineering, Computer Science, Statistics, just to name a few. I can't think of any other area of mathematics that is so broadly used - in fact I can't think of any other area of mathematics that doesn't use Linear Algebra to some extent. And most mathematicians will tell you that Linear Algebra was one of their favorite undergraduate courses.

**Computers** We will be using Maple computer software in this class. Most of you have used Maple in previous courses, but I am not assuming that you have any prior knowledge of this software. We will only make use of a small percentage of what Maple has to offer, but as you continue on in mathematics, you will see that it is a very powerful tool. Maple is available on the computers in our classroom, in Magale 1A, and on the laptops in Wright 103 and Wright 110. You can also purchase a copy of Maple for your own computer at a substantial student discount. Please let me know if you want more information.

**Homework** Homework assignments for the terms are posted on my webpage. Homework will generally be due on Monday. I encourage you to work with each other on homework, and to get help when you need it. However, copying solutions from any source is unacceptable. In particular, use of instructor manuals is not allowed. Homework will be graded for accuracy and completion. You may turn in homework up to one week late for half credit, however it will not be graded for accuracy.

**Writing Assignments** You will be given 3 short writing assignments, which will count toward your homework score. These will involve explaining mathematical processes.

**Class Participation** I will periodically ask you to come to the board to demonstrate solutions to homework problems. This together with your general participation in class will count toward your final grade.

**Midterms** There will be three midterm exams in this course. They are scheduled for **Thursday, September 17, Tuesday, October 13, and Friday, November 12.**

**Final Exam** The final exam is cumulative. Exam time is TBA

**Grading** The grading scheme for this course is given below. Please note that homework is a large percentage of your grade. It is therefore imperative that you keep up with the assignments.

Homework & Writing Assignments	30%
Class Participation	5%
3 Midterms	45% (15% each)
Final Exam	20%

Your first homework assignment is given below. This will be due next Tuesday (September 1)

1.1 <i>Systems of Linear Equations</i>	1,7,8,11
1.2 <i>Row Reduction and Echelon Forms</i>	2,3,4,5,6,9,12,13,15,23,24,28,29
1.3 <i>Vector Equations</i>	1,3,6,11,15,17,27,29