MA 237-01
Linear Algebra I

Semester: Spring 2002

Instructor: Richard Hitt, Ph.D., Professor of Mathematics

Office Hours: TR 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM, 10:45 AM - 11:30 AM, S 8:00 AM - 8:30 AM, 11:10 AM - 11:30 AM and by appointment in ILB 306 (accessible through ILB 325).

Phone: (251) 460-6755 is a direct line into my office. If I am not in, you can leave a message on my voice mail. If you need to speak to a secretary, you should dial 460-6264 and press 0 (zero) at the voice prompt.

E-mail: My electronic mail address is `hitt@mathstat.usouthal.edu`. This is a good way to get in touch with me.

Web page: I will maintain a course web page that will contain information on class meetings and homework assignments. You can access it by starting at my web page `http://www.mathstat.usouthal.edu/hitt` and clicking on the course number in my schedule.

Class Meeting: TR 9:30 – 10:45 in ILB 345.

Text: The text for the course is *Linear Algebra: Ideas and Applications* (ISBN 0-471-18179-X) by Richard C. Penney.

Coverage: We will cover most of the sections in Chapters 1 – 6. See the course home page for the details.

Prerequisite: MA 126 (Calculus II).

Technology: A calculator that is capable of computing eigenvalues/eigenvectors will be useful but not required. We will also use the computer packages Maple and/or Mathematica which are available on the machines in the computer lab in ILB 245 as appropriate.

Tutoring: The Department of Mathematics and Statistics provides free tutoring in ILB 456 beginning the second week of classes. A schedule of hours for the tutoring lab will be posted on the bulletin board outside ILB 325.

Description: [Taken from the *2001-2002 Undergraduate/Graduate Bulletin*] An introduction to linear algebra. Topics include vector spaces, linear transformations, determinants, the eigenvalue problem and applications.

Objectives: The goal of this course is to introduce the main ideas of linear algebra with an emphasis in both theory and applications.

Grading: There will be two in-class tests, each counting as 25% of the course grade. The final exam (Thursday, May 2, 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM) will be cumulative, and will count as 30% of the course grade. The remaining 20% of the grade will be derived from weekly quizzes, homework assignments. and lab assignments after the lowest such grade is dropped. There are no make-up tests or quizzes. Late assignments can be accepted only with a compelling hard-luck story. An appropriate deduction will be made for the degree of tardiness. If you miss a test, a grade for that test will be extrapolated from the part of the final exam that covers the missed test. (Note: You cannot choose to miss a test after you have received the test in class.) Unless otherwise announced, the cut-off points for the letter grades A, B, C and D are 90%, 80%, 70% and 60%, respectively, but in this course grade scaling is common on the major tests.

Notes: If you have a specific disability that qualifies you for academic accommodations, please notify the instructor and provide appropriate certification from the Office of Special Student Services (Student Center, Room 270, Phone 460-7212).

Any unforeseen changes required in the above policies and procedures will be disseminated to the class in a timely fashion.