Honors Linear Algebra Math 54-02, Spring 2004

MWF 10:00–10:50 am

Instructor: Prof. Sergei Treil, office: 216 Kassar, ph.: x1122 e-mail: treil@math.brown.edu Web: http://www.mth.brown.edu/~treil

Office hours: MWF 1:00–2:00 pm and by appointment.

Text: "Linear Algebra Done Wrong", available on my homepage. It is still work in progress, so if you find mistakes or typos, please tell me. The table of contents of the book will give you a good idea of the material we are going to cover.

Course material on the web: You will be able to find a syllabus, course outline, homework assignments, announcements etc on my home page at

http://www.math.brown.edu/~treil (under construction at the present time).

Grading

Just to give you an idea what to expect: the cutoff point for \mathbf{A} is usually about 90%, the score below 50% usually means failing. Other cutoff points are distributed more or less uniformly.

Other factors such as: effort, attitude, and improvement over time may figure into your final grade. I may also assign a less weight to a single exam grade that is out of line with the others.

Homework: Homework will be assigned each lecture and discussed at the beginning of the next lecture. It will be collected weekly for grading purposes. Although not all problems will be graded, it is *extremely* important to do all the homework. Test's and quizzes' problems will be often modeled after the homework problems or problems discussed in the class.

Note that you are not done with a problem just because you got the right answer. You are only done when you understand **why** the methods you used had to have worked. If all you are doing is blindly applying formulas and mimicking examples, get extra help. The problems should make *sense* to you. You should be able to solve the problem and similar ones with closed book and notes.

If you don't work hard on the homework, you won't know what's going on in class and do poorly on the exams!

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Submitting the homework. The following rules will be strictly enforced:

- 1. Write your name clearly at the top of every page.
- 2. Put the problems in order, indicating clearly what you have skipped.
- 3. Staple your homework. Paperclips, folded corners, etc. are not acceptable.
- 4. Turn in assignments in time. No late homework will be accepted.
- 5. Write neatly. If your homework is too messy, a grader may chose not to grade it.

Quizzes: The quizzes will be given as necessary, usually every week or every other week. The quizzes will be closed book, closed notes, and will consist of problems modeled after the homework assigned since the previous quiz. Each quiz is worth 10 points (the same as a homework assignment).

Exams: There will be two exams during the semester, the dates will be announced later. Exams are closed book and closed notes.

Make-ups will not be permitted except for a severe medical problem or dire family emergency. A written note from an appropriate person (doctor, father, etc.) is required. If at all possible, you should notify me *before* the missed exam.

Final: Closed book and closed notes. The date will be announced later.

Calculators: You can use computers/calculators when doing homework. However they are not permitted on the tests and quizzes.

Questions: *Mathematical* questions are appreciated any time during the class.

Notes: Taking good notes is essential for advanced mathematical classes, in particular for this class. While I'll be following my own textbook, you will see that the blackboard presentation is quite different from a printed page. Lectures and the textbook will augment each other, so it is essential to get good notes.

In this course I would like you to learn basics of mathematical notetaking as well. For each lecture I'll assign persons responsible for notetaking. They should take notes, check them after the lecture, and present a neatly written (or typed) version before the beginning of next class. I'll check the notes, correct if necessary, and post it on my home page. This way, at the end of the course, you will have a complete collection of notes, in addition to your own.

Everyone will be a "notetaker" for one of the lectures.

Attendance: Many college students treat class attendance as optional. This may be fine for some classes. However, in math. classes you can get way behind very fast. I would not penalize you for non-attendance, but you should come to class every time unless you are seriously ill.

And remember: office hours are not replacements for missing classes!