

Math 1B03
Linear Algebra I
Fall 2009

Instructor:	Trevor Arnold
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Office Hours:	Weds. 11:30 AM–1:00 PM Thurs. 10:30 AM–12:00 noon or by appointment

Class times: Tues., Weds., and Fri. 9:30–10:20 AM in MDCL 1309.

Tutorial: Thurs. 1:30–2:20 PM in HH 109; TA: Olga Krylova.

Text: *Elementary Linear Algebra: Applications Version*, 9th ed., by Howard Anton and Chris Rorres, published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc., ISBN 978–0–471–66959–3. The supplement *Student Solutions Manual* (ISBN 978–0–471–43329–3) with solutions to odd numbered problems is available separately.

Course homepage: <http://www.math.mcmaster.ca/~arnoldt/1B03/>

Material: This course covers selection of topics from the following chapters: Chapter 1 (Systems of Linear Equations and Matrices), Chapter 2 (Determinants), Chapter 3 (Vectors in 2-Space and 3-Space), Chapter 4 (Euclidean Vector Spaces), Chapter 5 (General Vector Spaces), Chapter 7 (Eigenvalues, Eigenvectors), Chapter 10 (Complex Vector Spaces). Additional topics may be covered as time permits. It is very likely that some material covered in the class will not be in the textbook, so it is important to attend all lectures and tutorials.

Exams: There will be two midterm exams and a final exam. The midterms are tentatively scheduled for the evenings of Mon., Oct. 5 and Mon., Nov. 9, both from 6:30–8:30 PM in MDCL 1102 and 1105. The final examination (duration 3 hours) will be scheduled by the Registrar's office during the official final examination period. Books and notes may not be used on any exams, i.e., all exams will be closed-book. The exams will test all material covered in class up to the date of the exam. Only the McMaster standard calculator, the Casio fx-991, may be used during the midterm tests and the final exam; no other calculators are allowed.

Homework: All graded homework will use the WeBWorK system for online assignments, which can be found at <http://webwork.math.mcmaster.ca/>. By default your login is your MAC ID and your password is your 6-digit student ID number. You can (and should) change your password after you log in. There will be twelve (12) weekly graded homework assignments, each due at 2:00 AM on the Monday after they are assigned. Your lowest homework score will be dropped. I have set up the online system to post solutions to the homework at the exact instant they are due, so as a result any homework completed after the deadline will receive a grade of 0. I will also post (on the course homepage) a list of suggested additional problems from the textbook which will not be collected or graded.

Grading: Your grade for the course will be determined by your performance on the homework and exams according to the following percentages: 1st exam 20%, 2nd exam 20%, final exam 45%, homework 15%. Course grades will be curved. In order that you may gauge your standing in the class, I will assign a tentative letter grade to each midterm exam.

Make-ups: There will be no make-up exams. If you miss an exam, you will receive a grade of 0 unless your absence was truly unavoidable (documentation required). I do not consider travel plans as unavoidable. In the case of a scheduling conflict with another class or other academic activity, an alternate exam time can be arranged provided that I am informed of the conflict at least a week (preferably more) in advance. Deferrals for the final exam are handled exclusively by the Associate Dean's office.

Academic ethics: Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g., the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy <http://www.mcmaster.ca/univsec/policy/AcademicIntegrity.pdf>, specifically Appendix 3. The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. plagiarism, e.g., the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained;
2. improper collaboration in group work;
3. copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Fine print: The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster e-mail and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.