COURSE INFORMATION
MATH 2255 − Fall 2006

This course is the first of two courses (the second being Math 2275) on linear algebra. In this course we will learn about linear equations, matrix algebra, determinants, and vector spaces.

Time	Class: MWF 12:30-1:30
Place	Ryan Building 2024
Instructor	Adam Van Tuyl
	Office: RB 2015
	Office Hours: MW 2:30-3:30
Text	*Linear Algebra and Its Applications* (3rd Edition) by David C. Lay
Email	avantuyl@sleet.lakeheadu.ca
Web Page	http://flash.lakeheadu.ca/∼avantuyl/courses/2006_fall_math2255.html

Contact Information. The best way to get a hold of me is via email. The class webpage is also a good source of information. I update the webpage after every class.

Outline. Math 2255 is a one semester course. We will cover the following sections of Lay's book:
- Chapter 1.1-1.9 – Linear Equations in Linear Algebra.
- Chapter 2.1-2.5 – Matrix Algebra.
- Chapter 3.1-3.3 – Determinants.
- Chapter 4.1-4.8 – Vector Spaces.

Please note that this course continues in Math 2275. Dr. Anisca will cover the remaining chapters during the winter semester.

Marking Scheme. The evaluation is composed of three components.

1. Homework (15%) A homework assignment will be given out every Wednesday. It will be due the following Wednesday in class. There will be 9 homework assignments per semester. The homework assignment with the lowest grade will not be counted. More details about this will be given in class. The solutions will be posted on ERES, the electronic reserve of Lakehead Library (a link will be on the webpage).

All of the homework questions (with some possible exceptions) will be taken from the text book. Exercises will be marked out of 2 or 4 points, depending upon the level of difficulty.

Questions out of 2 points will be graded as follows:

> [2 pts] Near perfect or perfect solution. A near perfect solution is a solution that is correct up to the final stage with possible mistake or sign error at the last step.
> [1 pt] The solution shows some of the needed ideas, but fails to have the final solution.
> [0 pts] Little or no progress is made toward the solution.

Questions out of 4 points will be graded as follows:

> [4 pts] Near perfect or perfect solution. A near perfect solution is a solution that is correct up to the final stage with possible mistake or sign error at the last step.
> [3 pts] Most of the needed ideas are present, but misses a key point, or is poorly written.
> [2 pt] The solution shows some of the needed ideas, but fails to have the final solution.
> [1 pt] One or two initial steps are made.
> [0 pts] Little or no progress is made toward the solution.

Further notes on homework:
- Every assignment must contain the course number, the assignment number, your name, and your student ID, and the instructor's name. (Every week, thousands of math assignments are turned in - make sure your assignment gets to the right person!)

- Homework must **always** be stapled together (no paper-clips, folding the pages, folders, etc. will be accepted). Failure to do this will result in **10 points deducted** from the assignment. (Paper-clipped assignments have the tendency to fall apart; assignments in folders make more work for the grader.)
- Late homework will have **10 points deducted** for every day (the weekend is counted as one day) that is late. Once the solutions have been posted, you may no longer submit an assignment
- The copying of assignments will result in a mark of 0 for both assignments.
- Homework may be handed in early by either giving it to me or by placing it under my office door. Do **not** bring your assignment to the math office.

2. Computer Assignments (15%) An experiment for this year, I will be giving 5 assignments that require you to use the computer package Matlab to solve problems in linear algebra. The hope is that the computer program will allow you to explore and make conjectures in linear algebra. It will also introduce to you a new facet of math (computer aided mathematics); as well, you will have a tool to check your homework assignments. Computer assignments can be done in groups of up to three people. More details on these assignments and Matlab will be provided during the first week of class.

3. Midterm (30%) There will be one midterm. The (provisional) date of the midterm is:

October 16, 2006 - Midterm 1

4. Final Exam (40%) A final exam will be given in December. The exam will be cumulative. The exact dates will be given later once the exam schedules are ready.

A friendly piece of advice: do not book your plane ticket home until you are certain about the exam schedule. A flight is not an acceptable excuse for missing an exam.

Class Policies. Though attendance is not mandatory, I would appreciate the fact that you show up on time if you do decide to come to class.

Changing Marks. If you disagree and/or have a problem with a particular mark on an assignment or exam, please use the following procedure. First, check you assignment/exam against the solutions. If this does not clear up any problems, on the front of the assignment/exam, please write the question number you want regraded, and why it should be regraded. Then hand it back it in. I will then take a look at the assignment/exam and see if the mark needs to be adjusted. If there is simply an addition error with the marks, please hand it back in to me with the correct number at the top.

Exams and tests must be taken on the date assigned, except if there are medical or family emergencies. In these cases, notes will be required.

Important Dates.

Sept. 7, 2006 - First semester begins
Oct. 9, 2006 - Thanksgiving (No classes)
Oct. 16, 2006 - Midterm
Oct. 18, 2006 - No class (I'm away at a conference)
Nov. 2, 2006 - Last day to drop course without penalty
Nov. 30, 2006 - First semester ends
Dec. 4-17, 2006 - Christmas Exams