Course Syllabus
MTH 377: INTRO TO LINEAR ALG. AND MATRICES (3 credit hours)
Summer II, 2008

Instructor: Dr. John Alford
Class Meeting Time: 12:00-1:50 MTWTHF (EVERY DAY)
Class Meeting Place: LDB 400
Office: LDB 414
Phone: 294-4663
E-mail: jalford@shsu.edu
Web: http:// www.shsu.edu/~jga001
Office Hours: Mon/Wed 10:00-11:00, Thu 2:00-3:00, or by appointment

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Objective: In this course the student is expected to obtain an understanding of linear algebra and its applications.

Description: Topics include: solving systems of linear equations, fundamental matrix theory (invertibility theorems, determinants), eigenvectors, and properties of linear transformations. Remaining topics are chosen from: properties of general vector spaces, inner product spaces, systems of differential equations and/or finite difference equations, diagonalization of symmetric matrices. Prerequisite: MTH 143. Normally offered in the Spring and Summer II. Credit 3.

Textbook: *Linear Algebra and Its Applications,* Third edition, David C. Lay

Exams, Quizzes, Final Exam, and Grade: There will be *3 exams, multiple quizzes, and a final exam*. There are **no** make-up exams or quizzes. You will get **0 points** for any exam or quiz that you miss, but be aware that the lowest exam grade and two lowest quiz grades will be dropped. The weights are as follows:

Exam average 60% (drop the lowest)
Quiz/homework average 10% (drop the two lowest),
Final exam 30%.

The grading scale is:

90-100% **A**;
80–89%: **B**;
70–79%: **C**;
60–69%: **D**,
59% and below: **F**

I reserve the right to lower the scale if necessary. **No extra credit** can be earned.

Attendance Policy: You are expected to attend every class and be in class on time and prepared. I will do the same. If class must be missed, you should contact me ASAP as to why, get the notes from a classmate, and monitor the class web-page for the announcements and updated assignment list. Regular attendance is essential and I will keep a record of your absences. Although your grade calculation will not depend your attendance rate, keep in mind that if I do my job as it should be done then those **students who attend class regularly will do the best**. (This is a generality which I have found to be true over the years.)

Cheating: Cheating will not be tolerated! Don't even think about it.

Calculator: A graphing calculator is required in this class for doing matrix computations and checking answers. Calculators with *computer algebra system* capabilities are not allowed in this class.

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Student Syllabus Guideline: You may find a more detailed description of the following policies. These guidelines will also provide you with a link to the specific university policy or procedure: http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/

Academic Dishonesty: Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. See *Student Syllabus Guidelines*.

Classroom Rules of Conduct: Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students are to treat faculty and fellow students with respect. Students are to turn off all cell phones while in the classroom. Under no circumstances are cell phones or any electronic devices to be used or seen during times of examination. Students may tape record lectures provided they do not disturb other students in the process.

Students with Disabilities: It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should visit with the Office of Services for Student with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. See *Student Syllabus Guidelines*

Student Absences on Religious Holy Days: Students are allowed to miss class and other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Students remain responsible for all work. See *Student Syllabus Guidelines*

Visitors in the Classroom: Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.