Information Sheet for Math 504   Fall 2011

Class Meets: MTRF   3 pm in MH 114

Instructor: Branko Ćurgus   **Office:** BH 178   **Office Hours:** MTRF 9 am

Course Website: http://myweb.facstaff.wwu.edu/curgus/Courses/504_201140/504.html

Text: *Linear Algebra Done Right*   by Sheldon Axler

Material covered. We plan to cover most of the first seven chapters of the textbook.

Exams. There will be two "mid-term" exams and a comprehensive final exam. The "mid-term" exams are scheduled for two hours outside of class time as follows: Wednesday, October 19, 2011 from 3pm to 5pm and Wednesday, November 16, 2011 from 3pm to 5pm. The final exam is scheduled for three hours on Wednesday, December 7, 2011 from 1pm to 4pm. (Notice that the final exam time is set by the school. I did my best to copy it right from the schedule. Please verify that I did it right.)

On each exam I shall assign one or two questions related to the theory presented in class (a proof of an important theorem for example) and two or three problems. One of these problems might be a problem discussed in class or an exercise from the book.

There will be no make-up exams. If you are unable to take an exam for a very serious reason verified in writing, please see me beforehand.

Assignments. There will be two written homework assignments. The assignments will be handed out in class one week before they are due. These assignments will be graded and the grade will count towards the final grade.

Homework. Your daily homework should consist of studying the material covered in class. Proofs that I will present in class will often differ from the proofs in the textbook. Study both: your class notes and the book. Analyze the similarities and the differences. This will help you to internalize the concepts and the methods that are being studied. Exercises in the book are there to enhance and challenge the learning process. Use them.

Grading. Each exam and assignment will be graded by an integer between 0 and 100. Your final grade will be determined using the following formula

$$\text{FG} = \lceil 0.2*\text{E1} + 0.2*\text{E2} + 0.15 *\text{A1} + 0.15*\text{A2} + 0.3*\text{FE} \rceil.$$

Your letter grade will be assigned according to the following table.

F : 0 - 49	D : 50 - 54	C−: 55 - 59	C : 60 - 64	C+: 65 - 69
B−: 70 - 74	B : 75 - 79	B+: 80 - 84	A−: 85 - 89	A : 90 - 100

Remarks. This is a fast-paced course. It builds on the concepts that you learned in undergraduate linear algebra courses and some ideas from calculus. It is essential that you keep up with the material presented every day. Do the exercises at the end of each chapter. Look for help if you encounter difficulties.

Remember that the best way to learn mathematics is to discuss it with others: other students in this class, students that took this class before, and me. I will be glad to talk to you during my office hours, or you can make an appointment.