

Time: MTThF 10–10:50
Classroom: Carver 2
Instructor: Dr. Alexander Burstein
Office: Carver 456
Office Hours: MTTh 11–12 (subject to change), or by appointment
Virtual O/H: I usually check my email several times a day, so you can usually expect an answer fairly soon, sometimes even if it's late night or weekend.
Email: burstein@math.iastate.edu
WWW: <http://www.math.iastate.edu/burstein/2006/math317/math317.html>
Phone: (29)4-7294 (that's 294-7-294)
Textbook: *Elementary Linear Algebra*, 3rd edition, by Stephen Andrilli and David Hecker
We will attempt to cover Chapters 1–6 and part of Chapter 7.

Math 317 vs. Math 307

Please note that Math 317 is the more theoretical of the two linear algebra courses taught in the math department, so be prepared to write proofs in your homework assignments. Section 1.3 of the textbook will be useful for learning to do this in a rigorous logical way, and we will go over proofs of theorems in the book as examples of how to do this. For a relatively proof-free linear algebra course, please consider Math 307.

Grading

- Quizzes and Homework – 40%
- Two Midterm Exams – 20% each
- Final Exam – 20%

Quizzes will be usually given every Friday at the beginning of class. Quiz problems will be usually taken out of homework from Thursday of the previous week through Tuesday of the current week. Hence, the quizzes are open-notebook. (Please note that other people's open notebooks are closed to you.) In your solutions, show all work. Mere oracular answers will get little credit or none at all. There will be no makeup quizzes. Two lowest quiz grades will be dropped, maybe more.

Exams will be announced 2-3 weeks in advance, but will be spaced out approximately evenly over the semester. All exams will be cumulative, but with considerable emphasis on new material. The first midterm will be in mid- to late February; the second midterm, in late March or early April. If you cannot attend a midterm due to extraordinary circumstances, you must notify me in advance to be allowed to make it up.

Homework assignments will be given in class on most days. These should be done regularly but are not be turned in unless explicitly stated. Occasionally, special assignments consisting of proof problems only will be given to be turned in. You may do those in groups of 2-5 people, and turn in a single copy for the whole group.

Reserve at least 1-2 hours for homework between each pair of classes. You may find it useful in general to work on homework problems in groups of 2-5 people. In such groups, give-and-take is important. If you only give or only take (especially, the latter!), you are in a wrong group. Make sure you understand solutions to all homework problems, even those you did not solve yourself.

Please address any **special needs** or **special accommodations** with me at the beginning of the semester or as soon as you become aware of your needs. Those seeking accommodations based on disabilities should obtain a Student Academic Accommodation Request (SAAR) form from the Disability Resources (DR) office (515-294-6624). DR is located on the main floor of the Student Services Building, Room 1076.