Instructor: Prof. Wilson.
Office: Room 304, 16 Colchester Avenue.
Office hours: Monday 2-3, Wednesday 2-3, and by appointment.
Office phone: 656-4326 (has phonemail).
Home phone: 482-4300 (please use sparingly).
Email: wilson@math.uvm.edu (office); hinesburg@juno.com (home). (Note: the home email is NOT private!)
Website: http://www.emba.uvm.edu/~wilson.

Text: Linear Algebra and its Applications (third edition) by David C. Lay.

Approximate course contents: We will try to cover most of chapters 1–5 and some of 6. We will cover the chapters in this order: 1, 2, 4, 3, 5, 6.

Grading, tests, and homework: I will assign homework at every class session. You should do the problems but you do not need to hand them in. I will work a subset of the assigned problems at the next class meeting, along with any others you wish to see done. I will regularly post homework and reading assignments on my website. Your grade will be based on four quizzes (each worth 10% of your grade), a midterm (worth 30%), and a final exam (also worth 30%). I do not give letter grades to quiz and test scores, but only to your final class average. Note: I do NOT drop quiz scores.

The quizzes will take place during class periods 2, 4, 8, and 10. I will give the midterm during class period number 6 and the final exam during class period number 12 (the last class meeting). Because of the Memorial Day holiday and the vagaries of Continuing Education, only eleven class periods have been scheduled. Therefore we will have to hold a make-up. The date of this make-up will be decided at the first class meeting.

Note on computer usage: Computer accounts have been or soon will be set up in your names. Strictly speaking, you will not need the computer for anything you do in this class. However, I strongly recommend that you use the computer to at least check some of your homework. The basic principles and techniques of linear algebra can and will be illustrated via hand computations on small matrices; but the matrices one typically encounters in the real world are too large to be tractable without computers, and you should become familiar with their use. Since I use Mathematica to make up handouts and exams, I will mainly talk about it (whenever I do mention computers), but I can discuss MATLAB should anyone wish, though I am a little rusty on it. (Sorry: I don’t know a thing about MAPLE.) Note: you will not need a computer to do any exam, but I encourage you to bring a calculator.

Policy on missed quizzes, etc.: If you miss one for a good reason (illness, job conflict, family emergency, etc.), I will be happy to arrange a time and place for you to make it up. Normally I will not ask for written verification of your excuse (I don’t think I’ve ever had to), but I might if it seems that people are taking advantage of my good nature. If I do ask you for such verification, you should not feel that you’re the bad guy. I must warn
you that if you come to a quiz or test feeling ill, take the exam, and bomb it, you will be stuck with the score.

Policy on learning disabilities: If you have a learning disability requiring special accommodations (such as untimed or large-print exams), the University and I will be happy to provide them. However, it is your responsibility to inform me and ACCESS (formerly the Office of Specialized Student Services) at 656-7753 well ahead of time if you do require such accommodations. Your request for special accommodations will be kept completely confidential.