Text:
Linear Algebra – Gateway to Mathematics, by Robert Messer.

Course Objectives:

1) Develop an understanding of the basic ideas in linear algebra: vector space, linear independence, basis dimension, linear transformations and so on.
2) Develop students’ ability to read and write mathematical proofs.
3) Give students and opportunity to use calculators and/or software as a tool to explore applications, discover mathematical results through experimentation, and visualize major course concepts such as linear systems linear transformations, eigenvalues and eigenvectors and orthogonality.

Homework will be assigned regularly and often will be collected and graded. In any case, it is your responsibility to do the homework and make sure you understand it. Get help when you need it. Regular attendance in class is expected.

Grading -

You will have three tests during the term and a final exam. Your tests will count for 50% of your final grade; your homework (which may include some projects) and quizzes will count for 20% of your final grade; and your final exam will count for 30% of your final grade. Classroom participation will be considered part of your homework grade.

The Final Exam will be held on Wednesday, December 16 from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Getting help

If you ever feel that you are struggling with the material or just want to talk about how things are going in the course, do not hesitate to contact me. You can come see me in my office or ask questions by e-mail or phone. I’ll do my best to help you understand the ideas in the course. Help may also be available in the Math Workshop. Work hard on your own, but keep in mind that you can take advantage of the help that I and Wittenberg can provide to you.
Wittenberg Honor Code:

I support and fully endorse the Wittenberg Honor Code. Academic dishonesty of any kind on tests, quizzes, homework or other graded projects will not be tolerated. All of the work that you submit on quizzes, tests and homework must be your own work done without any outside source (books, notes, etc.) unless it is explicitly permitted.

You will be allowed to use your graphing calculator on all quizzes and tests. You are also allowed to store notes in the memory of your calculator and refer to them during quizzes and tests. However, I would strongly caution that over reliance on such notes usually does not lead to a successful learning experience in this course.

You will be required to sign an Honor Code pledge on each quiz and test. On tests, the following full statement will be printed for your signature:

I affirm that my work upholds the highest standards of honesty and academic integrity at Wittenberg and that I have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance.

For homework I’ll distribute a “blanket pledge” that will cover all of the homework that you turn in.

Any assignment that does not have the appropriate pledge and/or student signature on it will not be considered to have been turned in and will not be graded.

Suspected instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Honor Council. There may be other University sanctions. See your Student Handbook for further information and policies regarding the Honor Code and academic dishonesty.

For students with learning disabilities:

Wittenberg University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for eligible students with disabilities. If you are eligible for course accommodation due to a documented disability, please provide me with your self-identification letter and contact me so that we may discuss your learning needs. You may contact Vancenia Rutherford, Assistant Provost for Academic Services at 937-327-7924 in room 203 Recitation Hall to coordinate accommodations and receive your self-identification letter. Early identification at the start of the term is highly preferable to ensure timely provision of services.

Opening Convocation:

Author and urban/suburban policy consultant David Rusk is the featured speaker at Wittenberg’s 165th Opening Convocation on Wednesday, Sept 9 in Weaver Chapel. Co-sponsored by the Center for Civic and Urban Engagement, the convocation will be the first event in the 2009-2010 Witt Series. Mr. Rusk is a former federal official, New Mexico legislator and mayor of Albuquerque whose most recent book (Inside Game/Outside Game) is considered a must-read for all practicing local government officials.

I encourage you to attend the convocation and be aware that classes are typically shortened that day. Keep your eyes and ears open for further information about the class schedule on September 9.