Linear Algebra NSC164

Time: TuTh 10.00–11.20am
Place: Sci217
Level: Intermediate
Credits: 4
Instructor: Matt Ollis
Email: matt@marlboro.edu
Website: http://cs.marlboro.edu/courses/fall2010/linear_algebra/home

Blurb: Next to Calculus, this is the most important math course offered. It is important for its remarkable demonstration of abstraction and idealization on the one hand, and for its applications to many branches of math and science on the other. Whereas Calculus introduces undergraduates to a large warehouse of constantly used mathematical items, Linear Algebra has the power to use and manipulate those items. Linear Algebra in n-dimensional real space, matrices, vector spaces and transformations are studied extensively.

Grading: Your final grade will be weighted: 20% mini-projects; 20% quizzes; 20% homework assignments; 40% final exam. Attendance, class participation and prompt submission of homework is expected—consideration of these factors will influence your final grade by up to one letter grade. Homework will be approximately weekly. There will be two in-class quizzes during the semester and an optional third quiz during reading days—your best two will be worth 10% each. The mini-projects will be extended (compared to homework sets) independent work on a problem or sequence of related problems and will usually be done in small groups and require a presentation.

What now: If you would like to take the course, then show up for class on Tuesday. You should also make sure you can access the course text—Jim Hefferon's *Linear Algebra*—freely available at http://joshua.smcvt.edu/linearalgebra. Please read the preface to get a sense of the approach and the subject (but don't worry about the terms you don't understand; you will soon enough).

Academic Integrity: You are expected to be aware of the college's policy on academic integrity and to abide by it. It can be found on the college website, and is linked from the course website. Please come and talk to me if anything is unclear.