

Math 200A: Linear Algebra

Middlebury College, Fall 2021

Frank Swenton

Contact info	e-mail: fswenton@middlebury.edu Office: Axinn 243
Class	MWF 9:05–9:55, Axinn 103
Office hours	MWF 10:15–12:15 <i>or any other time I'm free,</i> (location TBA) <i>preferably by appointment</i>
Homepage	go/math200a-f21

Course information

Welcome to Math 200! The topics that we'll cover this term include: linear systems; vectors and vector spaces; linear transformations and matrices; linear forms and the determinant; and inner product spaces. Time permitting, we will build upon these to explore a few more advanced topics in linear algebra.

There will be three examinations during the term and a comprehensive final exam, in addition to daily homework and some number of brief quizzes. Calculators will not be permitted for exams—please let this guide your use of them elsewhere in the course. The honor code will be in effect for all examinations (please see your student handbook for more information).

What do you need to know coming into the term? Nothing other than simple arithmetic and algebra and, eventually, a bit of basic calculus—everything else that you need will be covered in full in this course.

Schedule and grading

Class meets three times per week, and you will be expected to attend—excessive absences will affect your course grade. Evening problem sessions to go over problem sets and additional questions will be arranged, as a twelve-week term makes our class time very precious.

Problem sets will be handed out for each topic as we progress through the material. Full problem solutions, virtual flash cards, and other course materials will be posted on the course homepage listed above. Problem sets will be collected *en masse* at the end of the term.

Concerning quizzes, you will be responsible for any definitions presented by the next class period; other material is fair game by the second class period after the material is covered. Your course grade will be based on the three term exams and the comprehensive final, along with quizzes and a small contribution from homework and class participation.