

Critical Review

Brown University's Undergraduate Academic Guide

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Linear Algebra

Course Code: [MATH0520-4 \(Mocha\)](#)
Instructor(s): [Katherine Stange \(Mocha\)](#)
Department: [Mathematics](#)
Format: Lecture
CRN: 0

Frosh: 18 Soph: 10 Jun: 4
Sen: 2 Grad: 1 Total: 35
Concs: 1 Undecided: 3
Non-concs: 20 Respondents: 24

"Linear Algebra" is a prerequisite for most higher-level courses in the department. Topics covered included matrices, linear transformations, systems of linear equations, eigenvalues, and eigenvectors. There were no official prerequisites for the course, but survey respondents found experience with vectors from single variable calculus courses and knowledge of matrix operations helpful.

Katherine Stange led one of the four sections of linear algebra. Her lecturing techniques received high praise from her pupils, as she was able to relate the abstract material to concrete, sometimes humorous, examples. Reviewers also liked her use of computer demonstrations and handouts. Although some students became frustrated when she jumped into concepts without providing the necessary background, the instructor always encouraged questions and answered them well. They greatly appreciated her flexible office hours and willingness to help before upcoming problem set deadlines or exam dates.

In addition to weekly problem sets, grades were determined by the results of a midterm, a quiz, and a final. Readings were supposed to be completed prior to each lecture, but several students admitted to skipping them, as they found the lectures adequate. Of those who did read the textbook, only a fraction found it useful.

Most students spent between four and eight hours per week on the coursework outside of class, which matched their initial expectations. Some needed up to ten hours each week to complete the problem sets. One reviewer described the class as a "necessary (boring) evil" but others recommended taking it with Ms. Stange and learning about pet rocks named George and the evil Dr. Echelon's hamster-burger business.

Prof Avg: 1.35 Course Avg: 1.45

Structure



Instructor



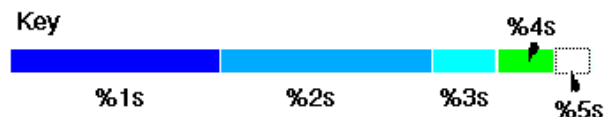
Content



Skills



Key



1s indicate strong agreement. 4s indicate strong disagreement. Blues mean more agreement. Greens mean more disagreement. 5s indicate a response of NA and is represented by blank space.



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136