CLASS MEETING SCHEDULE:
Section 1: MW 2:00pm – 3:15pm in LA5-147.

INSTRUCTOR:
Tangan Gao
E-mail: tgao@csulb.edu (preferable way to reach me).
Web address: http://www.csulb.edu/~tgao.

OFFICE HOURS:
MW 12:15-1:45PM and by appointment.

TEXTBOOK:
Linear algebra and its applications by David C. Lay, 3rd Edition. Addison Wesley
Bring your textbook to every class meeting.

COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:
Matrix algebra, solution of systems of equations, determinants, vector spaces including
function spaces, inner product spaces, linear transformations, eigenvalues, eigenvectors,
quadratic forms and applications. Emphasis on computational methods.

HOMEWORK:
Homework questions will be assigned each week and collected at the beginning of the
Wednesday class of the following week. Each homework assignment is worth 10 points,
but only one question from each homework assignment will be graded.
You are expected to know how to solve all these questions. Solving these questions is
an effective way to prepare yourself for quizzes and exams. It is extremely important
that you try to solve the questions yourself first before getting help.

QUIZZES:
There will be a quiz every Monday except on the days where a test is scheduled. Each
quiz is worth 10 points.

TESTS:
There will be three hour-tests worth 100 points each and a comprehensive final exam
worth 200 points. The final will be held from 12:30pm to 2:30pm on 12/13.
Only one makeup test will be given if you have a valid excuse such as illness or accident.
It is your responsibility to promptly contact the instructor and provide the necessary
documentation.
You may use a very simple non-programmable calculator during exams. All exams will
be based on the material discussed in class and your homework.

GRADING SCALE:
90 – 100% = A, 80 – 89% = B, 70 – 80% = C, 60 – 70% = D, 0 – 59% = F.
Your course grade will be based on a total of about 700 points: 300 from the hour-tests,
200 from the final and about 200 from the quizzes and homework. Three lowest scores
among those from the quizzes and homework assignments will be dropped. There will
be no makeup quizzes and no late homework will be accepted. Your Grades will not
be curved!
CLASS ATTENDANCE:
Class attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class meeting. Five points will be deducted from your total score for each missed class without a valid excuse.

Any changes in this syllabus or in the schedules of tests, quizzes, etc., will be announced during class meetings. Students who miss a class should copy classmates’ notes for that meeting.

OTHER UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE POLICIES:
Withdrawals from this course will only be allowed in accordance with University and College policies. All deadlines are observed.

It is the student’s responsibility to notify the instructor in advance of the need for accommodation of a university verified disability.

Students are encouraged to work in small groups on course material and homework. For tests and quizzes, the code of the California Administrative Code, Title 5, Section 41301 is applied.

SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR YOUR STUDY:
First, you must recognize there is a difference between understanding something and knowing how to do it. For example, if you play basketball, you may understand the job is to score a basket, but you may not have the skill to get the ball through the hoop. In math, you may understand a question, but you may not have the algebraic skill to do the question. In basketball, the only way to get the shooting skill is to shoot lots of baskets; in math, the only way to get the algebraic skill is to do lots of questions. If you can’t do a question at first, look back at the text, notes, etc, find out how and then repeat it until you can do it completely without help.

• Attend every class meeting. Be active in class.
• After each class meeting, read class notes or textbook, and do the corresponding homework. Study together with a couple of classmates or friends if possible.
• Understand (not simply memorize) the concepts and methods. When you know what are really going on behind them, you will easily remember them.
• Every weekend, summarize what you learn during the week, what you understand and what you don’t understand.
• Problems can be easily solved when they are still small. Get help as soon as possible.
• Remember two words “WORK HARD”. Studying math is not an easy job.

It gets a little easier the more you do it.