MATH 225 Introductory Matrix Theory

Instructors:
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Prerequisites:
MATH 221 - Calculus I. Be familiar with mathematical proofs. Review systems of equations, vector addition and multiplication, and elementary row operations before the start of the semester.

When to Take It:
You should probably take this course the second semester of your Freshman year. A lot of the methods that you learn in this course will prepare you for higher level Math and Engineering courses. This course can be taken concurrently with Math 231 - Calculus II without much interference between the courses.

Class Content:
This course becomes very clear very quickly. The material gives you a new way to related complex linear systems of equations and reduce them down to a simple solution set (points, lines, planes, etc...) of all solutions to the system. As you can imagine, this is extremely useful in higher level Engineering and Physics. The focus of the class is basic operations with matrices and the theorems that result from these useful tools. Know these well.

Work:
The workload for this course was fairly light. Expect weekly homework assignments not usually exceeding 12 problems which cover all material discussed for that week. Homework will generally take up to 2 hours for each assignment. Exams are fairly graded but require speed and attention to detail. The full exam hour should be used to catch calculation or sign errors.

Life After:
This course is especially useful in preparation for Math 241 (Multivariable Calculus) and TAM 210/211 (Statics). This course is specifically required for several 300 level engineering courses.