Grading Policy. We will have 3 in-class exams worth 100 points each and comprehensive final exam worth 150 points. The times and dates of the midterms are:

- **EXAM 1** Friday Sept. 14
- **EXAM 2** Friday Oct. 12
- **EXAM 3** Friday Nov 9

These are subject to change if needed. In addition to the exams, there will be about 150 points from homework and quizzes. The grades for the exams will be determined partly from a curve, based upon how well you do relative the others in the class, and also how well I think the class did as a whole. I will drop your worst score.

To calculate your semester grade I will drop the worst score among among EXAM 1, EXAM 2, EXAM 3 (but not the final). You will then have a total of 500 points from final exam, homework and quizzes and the in-class exams. The cutoffs for the grades will be determined from the average cutoffs for all the exams.

Homework, Quizzes. Suggested practice problems are given on the problem list. You are strongly encouraged to do as many as possible of these problems. However these problems are for your own practice and not (usually) to be turned in. I will take some time each day to go over a few of these in class. Turn-in homework will be assigned every week in class.

Late homework, Missed Quiz, Missed exams. Try to talk with me in advance if you can not take a quiz or exam, and I'll try to accomodate you. The first time you miss a quiz or are late with a homework there will be no penalty, but after that there will be a deduction. Regarding the in-class exams, unless there is a very good reason, with some kind of written documentation (as from a doctor for example), a make-up exam will not be given, and your grade will be calculated on the other scores. (In this case you will miss the benefit of dropping your worst score.) If you miss the final you will get a 0 on it. In case you have three exams on the day of our final exam, you will need to talk to the professor of the class which has the least number of students in it, and have him or her set up an alternate test time for you.

Calculators. Any kind of calculator is ok but you must do the calculation in the way in which it is taught. For example, if the problem calls for you to use row reduction to solve a system, it is NOT ok to simply use “solve” on your calculator. However, once the method of solution is no longer the main issue, you can use a matrix solver on your calculator without any great explanation.

After some introductory material, it will be be convenient to know how to 1) calculate the row reduced eschelon form of a matrix, and 2) find roots of polynomials on a calculator.
**Do’s and Don’t’s:** We don't need to hear cell phones in class. Just turn them off during class. Do try to meet others to study with and get missed class notes from - don’t make me go over the class because you missed it. Do let me know in advance if you know you are out of town for a period of time- it might have some influence on homeworks and test schedules.

GOOD LUCK!!!