Math 369-001: Linear Algebra

Basic info
Meeting times: MWF 8-8:50 a.m.
Room: Engineering E205
Course website: www.math.colostate.edu/~bates/courses/F08/369
Text: The main textbook is A First Course in Linear Algebra, by Robert Beezer, although we may occasionally use some supplementary notes, too. You can find the book at linear.ups.edu/download/fcla-electric-2.00.pdf. There is also a slick way of accessing it from the course website above. A few things about the book:

1. DO NOT PRINT IT OUT! That said, go ahead and print it out if you want, but it is 900 pages long or so. I suggest trying the online (linked!) version first. If you can’t stand it, look it up at stores.lulu.com/linearalgebra – they have a copy for $25 or so.
2. It is numbered strangely. Actually, it is lettered strangely. Hopefully we can get over that.
3. Most of the exercises in the book have solutions. They are good for review/exam preparation, but I will be creating my own assignments for you.

Instructor info: Prof. Daniel Bates (Dan), bates@math.colostate.edu, Weber 221 (1-1037)
Office hours for 369:
Mine: Tuesday 1-3 in Weber 221 (appointments and emailed questions are also most welcome)
Prof. Jeff Achter (section 2): Tuesday 4-5, TBA in Weber 216
Prof. Kelly McArthur (section 3): Monday 11-12, 1-2 in Weber 112
Prof. Dick Painter (retired): Monday 2:30-4, Tuesday 10-12 in Weber 130

About the class
Prerequisites: Math 161 but not Math 229.
Topics: Linear algebra is ubiquitous – it is used in everything from pure math to engineering to economics. This is now the introductory linear algebra course. We will discuss some very concrete topics, particularly related to computations and properties of matrices, and some rather abstract notions which form the core of what is known as linear algebra. Some applications may also be covered.
Structure of the class: This will be a fairly standard lecture-style course. You should read the pertinent sections before class – the approximate schedule is on the course webpage. Feel free to ask questions or point out mistakes as we go. From time to time, I may give a quick quiz at the beginning of class to make sure that you are reading. Also, from time to time, I may throw in some in-class (graded) activities. The two midterms will be taken during class although the final will be at a special time (but presumably in the same classroom).
Homework: I will collect it at the beginning of class on Wednesdays. No late homework will ever be accepted. Please keep your homework neat and legible, and please staple it together if there are multiple pages. Homework counts for 35% of your grade for the course, so do it and turn it in on time!
Quizzes and activities: You don’t want to miss these. Grades from these will have an effect on your final grade if you are on the border between two grades.
Midterms: These will be in class on Wednesday, October 1 and Wednesday, November 12. Each midterm will count for 20% of your grade for the course. Makeups will be given only if they are arranged ahead of time (and you’ll need a really good reason, not travel).
Final: This will take place 11:20-1:20 on Monday, December 15. It will count for 25% of your grade for the course. It will be possible to schedule an alternate time for the final, but, again, only if it is arranged in advance.
Other stuff

Feedback: I want it! I want this class to go well both for you and for me. I may survey you from time to time, but if you are concerned about some aspect of the class or have some idea about how to make it better, please let me know. If you have a problem that you feel should be addressed by somebody above me, the next rung on the ladder is Prof. Gerhard Dangelmayr (Weber 104).

Final Note: You should know that I have insulin-dependent diabetes and may therefore need to sit down and take it easy occasionally. There is also the very slight risk that I could have very low blood sugar at some point, causing me to pass out. If that happens (and rest assured, it never has before and almost certainly will not during this semester), I will need somebody to call 911. Please don’t worry: I haven’t passed out yet and don’t intend to!