A few students have approached me about the possibility of making up or changing their exam grades. The following guidelines for an “extra credit project” were developed in collaboration with a student.

**VALUE (ANSWERING THE QUESTION “WHY?”):**

“The purpose of doing the project for the student is to demonstrate your mastery of the material in this course. The points you acquire for this independent project is not your incentive as much as an opportunity to deepen your understanding of the material in an academic setting.”

**Benefits for the student:**

- An opportunity to approach the material in a new way.
- Improve your understanding of the concepts or make connections between concepts.
- Demonstrate your mastery of the material in an unconventional way.
- An opportunity to use different aspects of your intelligence to demonstrate your mastery of linear algebra concepts.

**Benefits for the entire class:**

- All final (recordable) products will be shared with the entire class. They will become good resources for everyone. Some I may even choose to make available to future classes.

**OPTIONS (ANSWERING THE QUESTION “WHAT?”):**

You have “three” options for this project, but with the third creative option, your options are really only bounded by your own imagination.

**Writing Focused**  The idea for this type of project will be to produce a mock research paper. The structure should model that of a mathematics research paper, but may incorporate aspects not traditionally found in mathematics research papers, such as interviewing experts.

**Speaking Focused**  The idea for this type of project will be for the student to give a short presentation (on the board or on paper) to me outside of class. This will not be an oral exam, but I will ask questions during and after your presentation.

**Creatively Focused**  The idea for this type of project will be for you to use your own (creative) strengths to construct something that demonstrates your understanding of a concept and/or ability to make connections among several concepts.
PROCESS (ANSWERING THE QUESTION “HOW?”):

Below are a list of the steps that you should take in order to complete this assignment. Failure to complete all of the steps will result in no credit for the project.

**Project Proposal** A short paragraph (probably in an email) indicating your interest in doing such a project and with a description of both the content you intend to demonstrate mastery of and a description of the final output you intend to produce. This should be accompanied by a proposal of due dates for the remainder of the steps below. If I have concerns about your initial proposal they will need to be addressed before you start on the remaining steps. I will accept project proposals through next Friday (13 November 2015) at 5pm, but you should get your proposal to me early so that you can address any concerns I have before that deadline.

**Proposed Rubric** A proposal of how to break down the 100 points I’ll give for the project into different components of your work. For an example of such a rubric, see the project rubric.

**First Advising Meeting** A short discussion with me outside of office hours or class to finalize your plans and start discussing any problems you may have.

**Final Advising Meeting** A short discussion with me outside of office hours or class to follow up on any remaining issues or concerns we have about your proposal and plans.

**Final Product** You must complete the proposed project and submit or present it to me.

**Written Reflection** You should write a 1-2 page thoughtful reflection on your individual learning process, and how this project enhanced your understanding of the content you focused on.

FURTHER COMMENTS

I expect that your project is of sufficient difficulty and mathematical depth to be worth an exam sized portion of your grade. The content may be on anything we have covered so far. You may use the project to replace some portion of your Midterm grade. More specifically, in the next week, I’ll ask you for your final grade distribution. I’ll allow you to lower your Midterm grade to as low as 5% as long as you are choosing an extra credit project worth at least 10% of your grade. However, your total Midterm and extra credit project percentage must be no more than 30% of your grade. If you choose not to do an extra credit project your grade distribution in the second round will have the same rules as the first round.