

**Math 5651. Fall 2011. Information about the final exam.**

The final exam will be given on Saturday, December 10th, 9am-12:10pm in our regular classroom (Clark 102). It will contain 5 or 6 problems. The scoring system will be somewhat similar to, but different from, the one on the midterm exams – the lowest of your scores will be counted with reduced weight (e.g.  $1/2$  or  $2/3$ ) and added to the sum of the other scores.

The exam may contain problems on any topic covered in the course, but strong emphasis will be made on Jordan canonical form and bilinear forms. You should also expect a question about direct sums.

Since there was only one homework assignment on bilinear forms, I encourage you to review carefully the material on bilinear forms we discussed in class, especially during the last week (Nov 29, Dec 1) and make sure you understand all the statements and proofs. It may be useful to work out the details of some of the claims that were omitted in class – all of these are straightforward, but should help you get a better “feel” for the material.

I also encourage you to go over the homework assignments/old exams and make a summary of the main techniques/algorithms/tricks used in the solutions. This should help you find the right approach to the exam problems within the allotted time.