MATH 256
Syllabus
Fall 2014

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Office Hours: MWF 10:20-11:20
TH 9:30-10:30
Others by appointment


Goals:

- Gain an understanding of the concepts and principles involved in solving differential equations.
- Recognize the wide variety of phenomena that can be modelled with differential equations.
- Be able to model such phenomena for yourself.
- General Education objective from CLA Catalog: Students will demonstrate the ability to make judgments and draw appropriate conclusions based on quantitative information.

Assessment: Your percentage will be computed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WeBWorK</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exams</td>
<td>3 @ 20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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Letter grades are assigned on the usual 90-80-70-60 scale. Plus and minus grades are at my discretion but generally correspond to trends in your performance for borderline cases. As a general rule, you should not expect any “curving.” The grades correspond to a level of achievement, not a ranking in the class. However, if you focus on learning what we study, the grades will take care of themselves. They should be among the least of your worries.

I will not take attendance for a grade, but I will expect you to be here every day. If you must miss, you should let me know in advance.

WeBWorK: Graded homework will be via WeBWorK; I will also assign supplementary exercises from the text and post selected solutions in PDF on my website.

Project: You will choose a topic for a project that is of interest to you. I will offer some topical areas you can research to find a suitable project. You will work in a group of three or four to complete the project. I will provide more details when the project gets closer.

Midterm Exams: There are three midterm exams; please note that the dates below are subject to change.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Wednesday, September 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Wednesday, October 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>Wednesday, November 12</td>
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Final Exam: The final will be on Friday, December 12 from 8:00 to 11:00 AM. You may not make up any missed exam. If an emergency arises, contact me prior to the exam.

Notebook: It is important to work out complete solutions to problems, but WeBWorK does not itself require that. I encourage you to work all of your problems out by hand in a notebook (perhaps a bound lab book), and I will award up to 2% extra credit for submitting that notebook at the end of the semester.
Note that there is no extra work involved; this is just a matter of keeping track of the work you are doing anyway and submitting it to me all at once.

Please note: Written responses to all questions must be in complete sentences. I expect correct usage of grammar, spelling, and punctuation at all times; your grade will reflect this! I also expect your work to be neatly written.

Special needs: If you have special needs (e.g., for a documented disability), it is your responsibility to approach me at least a day in advance of the need for accommodation.

Cheating: Cheating absolutely will not be tolerated. The minimum penalty for cheating is a 0 on the assignment and a formal notification to the dean.

Classroom Comportment: We will all make mistakes, and these are an essential part of learning. The classroom environment must be tolerant and welcoming so that everyone feels free to contribute without fear of ridicule or harassment. Treat everyone with respect, and we can all learn from each other.

Welcome! My door is usually open. The office hours above are the times I will definitely be in my office (or nearby), but you are welcome to come by at other times as well. Make sure you come see me whenever you have a question.