MATH 256
Syllabus
Fall 2003

Instructor:	Dr. Colin Starr	**Office Hours:**	MTΘF 8:00-8:50
Office:	Collins 308		M 3-5 and W 1:50-2:50
Office Phone:	(503) 370-6419		Others by appointment
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Required Text: *Elementary Differential Equations and Boundary Value Problems, Seventh Edition*, by Boyce and DiPrima.

Goals: We naturally want you to gain an understanding of the concepts and principles involved in solving differential equations. It is even more important that you recognize the wide variety of phenomena that can be modelled with differential equations and be able to model such phenomena for yourselves.

Assessment: Your percentage will be computed as follows:

MAPLE Project:	5%
Quizzes:	25%
Midterm Exams:	4@ 14% each
Final Exam:	14%

There is no predetermined percentage for a given letter grade, but you can expect that 90%, 80%, 70%, and 60% will correspond to a minimum grade of A-, B-, C-, and D-, respectively. 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.

You will be responsible for regular homework assignments; I will make my solutions available on my web page in PDF format so you can check your work. If you have a question, come find me and ask me **before the quiz!** Quizzes will be over material from 2 weekdays or more prior, although we will not have quizzes every day. For example, a quiz on Monday can be over homework assigned on or before the prior Thursday. Because we do not have class on Wednesdays, Monday and Tuesday assignments are both fair game for Thursday quizzes. I will not necessarily announce quizzes in advance, so be ready at all times! You should expect one or two quizzes each week.

There are four midterm exams; please note that the dates below **are subject to change**.

Exam I	Tuesday, September 23
Exam II	Tuesday, October 14
Exam III	Tuesday, November 11
Exam IV	Tuesday, December 2

The final will be on Friday, December 19 from 2:00 to 5:00.

You may not make up any missed exam or quiz. If an emergency arises, **contact me prior to the exam.**

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.

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

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.