

Differential Equations

Summer 2011

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Office hours: Daily 10:15 to 11:15. I am available at other times by appointment. Actually if you just drop by the office, I will be happy to help you on the spot if I am free. Be warned however that if you just drop by, you may find me unavailable. Your best bet is to catch me after class and make an appointment.

Text: *Elementary Differential Equations with Boundary Value Problems, ninth edition* by Boyce and DiPrima.

Homework: You will be assigned homework each day which you will generally be expected to complete by the next class period. When completing homework, it is important to remember that a clear presentation of how you got your answer is at least as important as the answer.

In general, homework will not be collected for grading. **You are expected to do all the assigned homework exercises and to keep them together in some kind of cheap folder. The homework folders will be collected at the end of the semester (and returned to you before final exam time).**

Quizzes: There will be a 10 minute quiz at the beginning of class at least 2 days each week. These are not intended to be difficult if you are keeping up. **Missed quizzes cannot be made up for any reason, but you may drop 2 quizzes over the course of the summer. If you arrive late to class, you will not have time to complete the quiz.**

Exams: There will be 2 hour exams to be announced at least one week in advance and a final. The final will be comprehensive and will be administered in this classroom on the last day of class. **You will be allowed to make up missed exams only if you receive permission from me before the regularly scheduled exam is given.**

Grading:

Hour exams	200
Final	150
Homework	25
Quiz	75
Total	450

Final grades will be assigned on a 90-80-70-60 basis.

Advice: You have all had some serious mathematics courses, and you are well aware of the importance of good study habits and of keeping up, but reminders are always good. The absolute best way to fail in any math course is to get behind. Don't let that happen to you. Set up a regular study schedule and stick with it. You are encouraged to study with others, but each of you is expected to write up your own solutions.

This is summer school. We cover the same material as we would cover in the regular semester, but we move **very fast**. This makes it absolutely vital that you do not miss class and that you complete all the homework in a timely fashion.

If you are having difficulties, **come see me**. I have been here before, and if I know about your difficulties, there is some chance I can help you. It is for certain that I can't help if you don't let me know.

Fun: OK, enough of the threatening stuff. Differential equations is by far the single most applicable area of mathematics. You will learn lots of neat stuff not only about differential equations but also how they can be used to model the world around you. We will work hard, but if things go as I want them to, we will also have some fun doing it. Welcome, and best of luck to each of you.