

Differential Equations

Spring 2011

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Office hours: MWF 9:30-10:30. 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, eighth 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 exercises give you difficulty, bring your questions to class.** 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. Working in groups is encouraged, but be sure you write up your own solutions.

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 each class period. These are not intended to be difficult if you are keeping up. Do not expect exam questions to be like quiz questions. **Missed quizzes cannot be made up for any reason, but you may drop 3 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 3 hour exams to be announced at least one week in advance and a final. The final is comprehensive. **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	300
Final	150
Homework	25
Quiz	75
Total	550

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. **Do not miss class.**

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.