
Math 324: Differential Equations

Spring 2008

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Sections 1 & 2
MWF 12–12:50 PM & 1–1:50 PM
304 & 126 Koch Center
<http://faculty.evansville.edu/ct55>

Course Description. Includes standard first and second order methods, systems, difference equations, power series, Laplace transforms, and numerical and nonlinear methods, with applications for all of these. Prerequisite: A grade of C- or better in Mathematics 323.

Course Objectives. The goals of the course are to develop a conceptual understanding of differential equations; to develop a computational understanding of techniques and algorithms introduced in the course; to develop the ability to use differential equations to model real-world problems; to communicate mathematics, both in writing and orally; to develop the ability to read mathematical texts; and to improve problem-solving skills.

Required Text. Zill, Dennis, *A First Course in Differential Equations with Modeling Applications*, 8th edition, Thomson, Brooks/Cole, 2005.

Office Hours. I will be available in my office at the following times: MRF 2–3 PM and 4–5 PM, T 1–3 PM, and W 2–4 PM; additional times can be arranged by appointment.

Exams. There will be three in-class exams, worth 100 points each; dates will be announced at least two weeks in advance. A cumulative final, worth 150 points, will be given on Friday, May 2 at 10:15 AM. *Note that this time differs from the time and date given in the Spring 2008 schedule.*

Quizzes and Projects. There will be (at least) twelve ten-point quizzes given throughout the semester; the highest ten scores will count towards your final grade. Generally, quizzes will be given during weeks that we do not have an exam; quizzes may or may *not* be announced. Two projects worth 25 points each will be assigned for completion outside of class.

Homework. Exercises will be assigned to accompany the material covered in class. Homework will not be collected; however, you *may* see similar problems on the tests and quizzes. Completion of the assignments is essential to success in this class.

Attendance. Students are expected to attend class. You are responsible for any information (including announcements) that you miss. The course website will have up-to-date information. Arriving late or leaving early, reading the newspaper, text-messaging, etc. disrupts the class and is rude and unprofessional.

Computer Use. We will use computer applications (e.g., DERIVE, Excel) as a tool to help learn the material. However, the computers in the classroom are only to be used during class when students are instructed to do so, and only the application students are instructed to use should be open. There is to be absolutely no web-browsing, instant messaging, e-mailing, working on computer assignments for other courses, or other use of the computers during class. Each unauthorized use of the computer during class time will result in a 5 point deduction from the next exam; this is your first and only warning. Using the computers at inappropriate times distracts both your classmates and your instructor.

Course Grades. Your grade in the course will be based on the 600 points described above. The class will be graded on a ten point scale; pluses and minuses will be influenced by such factors as attendance and participation.

Make-up Policy. An opportunity to make up missed work will only be granted in the event of a *documented* emergency or illness. **There will be no opportunity to make a up missed quiz or exam, if I am not contacted prior to the exam or quiz.** If you anticipate a conflict with an announced exam, speak with me **before** the scheduled date.

Extra Credit. There will be no extra credit assignments.

Academic Honesty. Giving or receiving help on quizzes or exams will not be tolerated. We will follow the University's honor code, which reads "I will neither give nor receive unauthorized aid nor will I tolerate an environment which condones the use of unauthorized aid." Collaboration on homework assignments and projects is encouraged; note that work to be submitted for a grade should be your own and not copied from a fellow student.

Students with Disabilities. It is the policy and practice of the University to make reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. Written notification to faculty from the Office of Counseling and Health Education is required for any academic accommodations. If you are eligible to receive an accommodation and would like to request it for this course, please discuss it with me and allow two weeks notice. If you have questions about services for students with disabilities or procedures for requesting services, you may contact the Office of Counseling and Health Education at 488-2663.

Disclaimer. I reserve the right to change the dates and policies outlined above at my discretion. Any changes will be announced well in advance.