
Syllabus for Section 3, Spring 2018

Course Meetings: Tuesday and Thursday, 1:00 - 2:15 PM, JAC Room A005

Instructor: Dr. Maksym Derevyagin
Office: Hume Hall 333
Office hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 3:00-4:00 PM
Or by appointment.
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Textbook: A First Course in Differential Equations, the classic 5th edition, by Dennis G. Zill, Brooks/Cole 2001 (make sure that your edition is 5th!)

Course contents and goals: This course is an introduction to the subject of differential equations, which are some kind of equations that contain derivatives. Such equations are the mathematical backbone of biology, physics, engineering and many other areas of science. Thus, the main goals of the course are to enable students to understand the basic concepts, develop problem solving skills, apply concepts and theories learned in class to solve some application problems, prepare for higher level courses, and enhance critical thinking and analytical reasoning abilities. To this end, it is planned to cover Chapters 1, 2, 4, 7 and some parts of Chapters 3, 5, 6. This includes first-order differential equations, linear differential equations of higher order and Laplace transform.

Homework and quizzes: Homework will be assigned but not collected and graded. There will be three in-class quizzes (tentative quiz dates are February 8th, March 8th, and April 12th) and quiz problems will be taken from the homework. In addition, the test problems will be similar to the homework problems and to the problems discussed in class.

Mid-terms and final exam: There will be three mid-term exams (tentative test dates are February 22nd, March 29th, and April 26th) and a final exam on Thursday, May 10th at noon.

Grading: The course grade will be calculated out of a total of 600 points:

- Each Mid-Term will be worth 100 points (300 points in total).
- The Final Exam is worth 200 points (200 points).
- Each Quiz will be worth 20 points (60 points in total).
- The attendance will be worth 40 points (40 points in total)
- The lowest of the three mid-term exam scores will be replaced by the final exam percentage provided that this percentage is higher.
The grading scale is: A-, A: 540-600 (90% - 100%), B-, B, B+: 480-539 (80% - <90%), C, C+: 420-479 (70% - <80%), D: 360-419, (60% - <70%). The plus/minus grading system will be used. I reserve the right to make the grading scale easier.

Calculator Policy: Your brain is a sufficient calculator in MATH 353. Calculators will NOT be allowed during exams. While I cannot stop you from using a calculator on homework assignments, I encourage you to do the homework without a calculator.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES: Cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices that might cause disruption should be turned off or silenced before class begins.

ATTENDANCE: Attendance is very important and is directly correlated with course success. A class roll will be circulated each time class meets. It is the student’s responsibility to make sure his/her attendance record is correct.

Additional Policies:

1. Each student is responsible for work missed due to absences. If a test is missed, a grade of zero will be given.
2. Any person who must miss a scheduled test or quiz because of an official university function must reschedule with the instructor to take the test at a time before the test is scheduled to be given. No other rescheduling will be allowed. If asked for by the instructor, official documentation must be provided.
3. An "I" grade will not be given without the permission of the Department of Mathematics.
4. A student who wishes to discuss the grading policy, testing policy, or wishes to have a conversation regarding the instructor of the course should make an appointment with the course supervisor in the Department of Mathematics.
5. Any student having three or more final exams scheduled for the same day may arrange with the instructor to take either the 12:00 noon or 7:30 p.m. exam at another time. This is the only reason that a final exam may be rescheduled. The student is required to take the final exam at the time scheduled.

Course Withdrawal: The withdrawal deadline is Friday, March 2nd, 2018. After the course withdrawal deadline, courses dropped will be recorded on University records and the W grade will be recorded if the student is not failing the course at the time of withdrawal; otherwise the grade recorded will be F. After the course withdrawal deadline, a student may drop a course only in cases of extreme and unavoidable emergency as determined by the student’s academic dean. Dropping
the course after the deadline will not be permitted because of dissatisfaction over an expected grade or because the student has changed his or her major.

**Academic Needs:** It is the responsibility of any student with a disability who requests a reasonable accommodation to contact the Office of Student Disability Services (915-7128). Any request for extended testing time made through that office must be made prior to the date of the test.

**Academic Honesty:** The following statement is the policy of Department of Mathematics regarding academic honesty: Cheating on any exam, quiz, classwork, or homework, theft of exam questions or possession of exam questions prior to the time for the exam shall all be offenses subject to the appropriate penalties. The penalty for commission of any offense set out above is failure in the course, and subject to the approval of the Chancellor, dismissal or suspension from the university.