

Math 353 – Differential Equations – Section 3

Syllabus – Spring 2014

Course Meetings: T-Th 1:00-2:15, 120 Holman North

Instructor: Dr. Laura Sheppardson

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Office Hours: , or by appointment

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COURSE CONTENT & GOALS

A differential equation is simply one involving derivatives. These model processes of change, and thus find application in most sciences. In this course we will study elementary methods for solving some classes of ordinary differential equations. After completing the course, a student should be able to ...

- Write ordinary differential equations which model a variety of processes
- Identify and classify ordinary differential equations solvable with elementary techniques
- Apply standard elementary methods to solve these equations

Topics covered will include general first order equations, higher order linear equations, and the Laplace transform. These appear in textbook chapters 1-5 and 7.

TEXT

A First Course in Differential Equations (Classic 5th Edition) by D. G. Zill, Brooks/Cole 2001

TECHNOLOGY

Grades, course announcements, and other information will be posted on *Blackboard*.

TESTS & HOMEWORK

Practice exercises from the textbook will be assigned for each section. Homework will be due for grading approximately one a week. Graded work will generally be some subset of the practice exercises, announced in advance.

There will be three major tests during the semester. Each test will count 100 points. The test questions will be similar in format to the examples in class and the homework problems. Any student who will miss one of the three tests because of an official University function must reschedule and take this test at a time before the scheduled test administration. Other test rescheduling may be offered in *very rare* cases, such as jury duty or military commitments.

The final exam will be cumulative, and will contribute 200 points to the final grade. The format will be similar to that of the mid-term tests. The examination period will be determined by the official university final exam schedule. The period for this section is currently set at **noon on Thursday, May 8**. Any student having three or more final examinations scheduled for the same day will arrange with the instructor to take the 12 noon examination or the 7:30 p.m. examination on some other mutually satisfactory date. All other students must take the final exam at the time scheduled.

Tentative test dates: Tuesday, February 18
Tuesday, March 25
Tuesday, April 22
Final exam: Thursday, May 8

FINAL GRADE

Top two tests:	200	The "best of" grade is the highest of your third test grade, your final exam percentage, or your homework.	Score	%	Minimum grade*
Homework:	100		558	93%	A
Final exam:	200		540	90%	A-
"best of":	100		522	87%	B+
<u>total</u>	<u>600</u>		498	83%	B
		480	80%	B-	
		462	77%	C+	
		420	70%	C	
		360	60%	D	

* The instructor may assign letter grades higher than indicated on this scale, but not lower.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is directly correlated with course success. You are expected to attend all classes and to be on time and prepared. Attendance will be recorded daily. It is the student's responsibility to make sure his/her attendance record is correct. *Excessive absences may result in the student being dropped from or failing the course.* Cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices that might cause disruption should be turned off or silenced before class begins.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

You are expected to abide by the guidelines for academic honesty given in the M-Book. Sanctions for academic misconduct may include grade reduction, extra work, failure of the course, suspension, expulsion, or a combination of the above. Academic misconduct includes presenting for grading anything which is not your own original work, using unapproved sources for any assignment or test, allowing someone else to copy your work for a graded assignment or test, theft or attempted theft of exam questions, possession of exam questions prior to the time for examination, the use of an illegal calculator on tests or quizzes, or asking for a regrade of a paper that has been altered from its original form. *If you have any doubts about whether something is proper, ask.*

SPECIAL NEEDS

It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individual basis, reasonable classroom accommodations to student who have verified disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or meet course requirements. It is the responsibility of the student to request accommodations by delivering to the instructor a copy of the Instructor Notification of Classroom Accommodations form. Students who believe they may benefit from academic accommodations because of a disabling condition should contact the Office of Student Disability Services (915-7128).

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

* Keep up. You will need to be comfortable with the material from the beginning of the course to be successful in the end. * You should expect to spend about two (2) hours outside class for every nominal hour in class. For a 3 credit hour course, expect about 6 hours a week of study time. * Use your textbook. It has a good index, answers to odd-numbered exercises, a table of integrals on the inside cover, and an appendix of useful information. * Ask questions. The point of the course is for you to learn something. I am here to help you do that, not to judge you. I can provide much more effective help if I know where you need it.