

MATHEMATICS 231- DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS-SPRING 2008

Time and place: Tu+Th, 11:10-12:25, Ayres 316

Instructor: Dr. A. Freire, office: Ayres 207A, 974-4313

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Office hours: after class- 12:30 to 1:00, Tu + Th- or by appointment (phone or e-mail)

Remark: each student is *required* to make two office-hour appointments during the semester (one before the first test.) *Bring to the interview:* your textbook, your class notes, all problems you have done in writing (whether turned in as homework or not.)

Goal and prerequisites: First course on differential equations, intended primarily for students in science and engineering. Prerequisite: Calculus II (142 or 148).

Textbook: There is no preferred textbook for the class. However, each student will be required to have a differential equations text at an appropriate level. There will be a 'textbook check' on Tuesday, Jan. 15.

COURSE POLICIES

1. *Attendance:* students are expected to come to every class. Each lecture will include new material, occasionally not found in the text. (Take notes!) I will take attendance, and missing too many classes will affect your grade.
2. *Course log:* This link to the course web page will contain a brief listing of the material covered in each lecture, handouts and homework problems. It will be updated after every class and should be consulted often.
3. The most important concepts and examples for each topic will be presented in class, but for thorough understanding you are expected to (i) *read* your textbook and your class notes; (ii) work on the *homework* problems; (iii) *ask questions* when there is something you don't understand.
4. The link [classroom behavior expectations](#) includes a list of behaviors considered disruptive (math department policy). Please familiarize yourself with it, as this policy will be enforced.
5. Students with disabilities: if you need special arrangements to take this class (including exams), please contact the Office of Disability Services (2227 Dunford Hall, 974-6087 V/T, <http://ods.utk.edu/>)

HOMEWORK, EXAMS and GRADING.

HOMEWORK- Problem sets for each topic presented in class will be given on the course web page, with the choice of problems turned in for grading left *to the student* (among the problems given in each problem set), subject only to the rule that a problem already solved in class *may not* be turned in for grading.

Homework must be turned in at the beginning of class on the due date, and late homework will not be accepted. *Pages must be stapled together by the student prior to turning in a homework set- unstapled pages will not be accepted!*

Homework problems will be graded on an *'all or nothing'* basis and will not be graded if not written in a clear, detailed, organized way. 40 correct problems (over the semester) will correspond to a 100% HW grade (and proportionally for fewer problems; a number greater than 40 will not affect the HW grade.) I expect to have a total of 10 HW sets (about 6 problems each.)

EXAMS- There will be two in-class written exams, with dates announced one week in advance. Students who have to miss an exam due to a university activity or for a *documented* medical reason must inform me no later than the class preceding the exam. *'No shows'* to an exam without prior announcement will result in a grade zero for the exam, which cannot be replaced. There will also be a comprehensive final exam.

MAKE-UP EXAMS- At my discretion, a student may be given the opportunity to take a written make-up exam, to replace *one* low test grade or a justified absence to *one* test. Conditions to be met will include: attendance and homework record to date, turning in an additional problem set. The exam will be scheduled outside of normal course hours.

GRADE COMPUTATION- HW: 30%, Exams: 20% each, Final: 30%
Expected scale: below 50: F; 55-69: C or C+ (satisfactory/fair); 70-84: B or B+ (good/very good); 85-100: A (superior). *I do not 'grade on a curve'.*

Remark. Regardless of the course average as computed above, each of the following will result in an F grade: (i) missing both tests, or missing the final; (ii) grades of less than 40% on both exams, or less than 40% on the final. (iii) missing 4 consecutive lectures.

IMPORTANT DATES: Add/drop without W: Jan 18; drop with W: Feb.19; drop with WP/WF: April 1st.

