LOCATION, TIME: Ayres Hall 124, Tu&Th 3:40-4:55  
INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Alex Freire (PhD 1988; at U.T.K. since 1991)  
Web page: http://www.math.utk.edu/~freire  
OFFICE: Ayres Hall 325, phone 974-4313, email freire@math.utk.edu  
Office Hours: Tu&Th 1-2 or by appointment

Course description: Introduction to ordinary differential equations, with one-variable Calculus as prerequisite. Topics include: linear and nonlinear first-order equations, linear second-order equations and applications, solution by power series, Laplace transform, first-order systems.


Note: The text includes all topics in the course; however I may introduce them in a different order, and my emphasis may differ from the authors’. Thus, for the typical student it will be difficult to get a good grade without coming to every class.

Lectures: Lectures are intended to be participatory, with emphasis on examples and students working on problems in class. This can only work if students read the sections in the text in advance. (They will be posted on the course log ahead of time, or see the course outline).

Homework: suggested homework problems from the text will be given for each section covered (between 8 and 10 problems on most weeks). Homework will not be collected; instead, there will be quizzes consisting of selected homework problems.

Policy change (announced to class via Blackboard on 1/16): weekly homework sets consisting of about six problems will be collected and graded; in addition, there will be at least one quiz problem on most lectures.

Quizzes: there will be about four in-class quiz problems per week, based on the homework problems or on examples just discussed in class. (Another reason to read the sections in advance.)

Grading: there will be three in-class tests during the semester. The course grade will be based on quizzes (quiz+homework, see policy change above) (20%), test grades (20% each) and a final exam (20%).
Clarification regarding the Hw+Qz grade (announced to class via Blackboard on 1/30): The quiz total and the homework total will be computed separately (each as a ratio, each problem being worth one point, with the total number of problems as the denominator.) The Qz+HW grade will be the highest of the homework grade and the quiz grade.

Expected grading scale: 55-69: C,C+ 70-84: B-,B,B+ 85 and higher: A-, A. I do not grade ‘on a curve’ (a student’s grade is independent of how the class as a whole performs.)

Course policies:

1. Attendance to every lecture is expected. (Note that every lecture will include at least one quiz problem.)

2. The following are distracting to the instructor and other students, and will not be permitted: (i) use of laptops or cell phones during class, or texting; (ii) reading material not pertaining to the course; (iii) arriving late or leaving early, without warning the instructor in advance.

3. There will be no make-ups of tests, even in case of a justified absence.

4. All information about the course (HW problems, topics covered, handouts, instructions to students) will be posted on the course log, linked to the course page: http://www.math.utk.edu/~freire/teaching/m231s15/m231s15index.html

5. There will be no “extra credit” assignments.

6. Students with disabilities: please contact the Office of Disability Services (974-6087 V/T) if you need special arrangements to take this class.

Recommendations:

1. Do not fall behind: this is a fast-paced course, with a lot of material to be covered. If you fall behind, it will be difficult to catch up.

2. Read the text carefully, in advance of when the section is covered in lecture. In class I will emphasize the “big picture” and examples. You may find it helpful to take notes.

3. Ask questions if there is something you don’t understand—in class or during office hours.
4. Student feedback: there will be a short in-class survey shortly after the first test, but students are invited to offer constructive criticism or suggestions in person, at any time.

**Course outline:** for a (tentative) list of topics to be covered, see:
http://www.math.utk.edu/~freire/teaching/m231s15/m231s15plan.html