Math 266 Section 131 Fall 2015

Thomas Sinclair, Instructor

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This is the preferred and easiest way to contact me. Do not message me on Blackboard,WileyPLUS, etc.
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Course Information

Meets: TR, 12:00-1:15
Room: Smith Hall (SMTH) 208
Office Hours: T, 3-4; W, 11-12; R, 4-5
Course Webpage: http://www.math.purdue.edu/academic/courses/MA26600
Instructor Webpage: http://www.math.purdue.edu/~tsincla/266-131-15f
You are expected to regularly check the course and instructor webpages for announcements, assignments, and other pertinent information. You are responsible for all information posted on these webpages!
Textbook: Boyce and DiPrima, Elementary Differential Equations and Boundary Value Problems, Tenth Edition, J. Wiley & Sons. (Link to Amazon)
WileyPLUS: This course uses online homework assignments via WileyPLUS (**class login**). You will need to register for this course with WileyPLUS. (See flyer on instructor webpage.)

Course Policies

Homework: There will be weekly web-based problems as well as handwritten homework assignments and projects. You will find the assigned problems for each section on the Course Webpage or **here**. Due dates will be posted on the Instructor Webpage. Written homework is to be turned in by the end of class on the day it is due. *Homework must be neatly written or typed on loose-leaf paper only and problems should be ordered in the same sequence as they are assigned. Multiple pages must be securely fastened. Late homework will not be accepted.* However, the three lowest homework scores (by percentage) will be dropped. In case of a foreseen absence, you are encouraged to turn in your homework early. *Discussion of written homework and projects is encouraged, though every student must submit their own, original work.*

Quizzes and Participation: There will be weekly quiz and/or participation-based activities. The two lowest scores will be dropped.

Midterms: There will be two, in-class midterms, scheduled Tuesday, September 29 and Tuesday, November 10. Midterms will consist of a multiple choice question as well as a several open response type questions. In case of a schedule conflict, an alternate exam time *before* the scheduled date/time may be arranged. Arrangements should be made at least two weeks before the proposed alternate date/time, preferably as soon as possible. No makeups will be given for missed exams. If you miss an exam contact me as soon as possible to discuss your options.
No calculators, electronic devices, books, notes, or crib sheets are permitted at any time during a quiz,midterm, or the final exam. Cheating will result in a grade of zero on the assignment at the least and possibly failure for the class.

Final Exam: The final exam is scheduled for … TBA. The final is comprehensive and will consist of

multiple choice problems only. An archive of previous years' final exams is available **here**.

Course Grades: Your final grade will be determined by your rank by total points earned in the following categories: Homework/WileyPLUS/Projects (125 points); Quizzes/Participation (75 points); Midterms (200 points/100 points each); Final (200 points). By course policy, the number of 'A' grades assigned is limited by the number of students earning an 'A' grade on the final exam. However, course grades are assigned by rank in terms of total points earned. Therefore, it is possible to earn an 'A' on the final but not earn an 'A' for the course – the same, of course, applies to most classes.

Questions on Grading: You have one week from when work is returned to you to ask for a regrade; otherwise, the grade is final. All decisions on regrades are final and are not subject to debate.

Gradebook: An online gradebook will be kept in Blackboard. You are responsible for making sure your grades are accurate.

Students with Disabilities: If you have a disability that requires special academic accommodation, please make an appointment to speak with me within the first three (3) weeks of the semester in order to discuss any adjustments. It is important that we talk about this at the beginning of the semester. It is the student's responsibility to notify the Disability Resource Center (http://www.purdue.edu/drc) of an impairment/condition that may require accommodations and/or classroom modifications.

Tips for Success:
1. Read the relevant sections before lecture.
2. Ask questions! Feel free to speak up at any time during lecture. Don't just take notes; try to actively listen and think during lecture.
3. Keep up with studying and assignments. Do not expect to do well in any math class by "cramming" the night before an exam.
4. Be responsible for your own learning. Take responsibility for studying, recognizing what you do (or do not) know. Seek assistance if you need it.
5. I am here to help you, and I want you to do well! Talk to me after class, in office hours, or send me a message.
6. Make friends! Get to know your classmates so you can form study groups, borrow each others notes, etc.
7. Practice. Work as many problems as you can (even the ones not assigned as homework, gasp!!). Homework is more than rote computation. You should be asking yourself, "What tool(s) do I need to use, why am I using them, and how do I use them correctly and in what order?"
8. Definitions, examples, and counterexamples of concepts discussed in class matter. Unlike high school, college math is as much conceptual as it is computational.
9. Work problems systematically. Understand the problem in your own words. Identify a goal. Devise a strategy. Carry out the necessary steps to implement the strategy. Look back; did you achieve the objective? Answer the question completely?
10. *Work hard, but don't forget to rest, relax, and enjoy your time here!*