

MATH 2171-002, FALL, 2009

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Office hours: 9:30 — 11:00 am MW
and by appointment

1. Syllabus and Textbook

The Department of Mathematics and Statistics chooses the textbook and makes out a syllabus for the course. The textbook is *Differential Equations* by James R. Brannan and William E. Boyce, published by John Wiley & Sons, 2007, ISBN 978-0-471-65141-3. The syllabus is posted elsewhere on this site. Note that the exams will not necessarily fall at the times indicated on the syllabus.

2. Grading

Your grade will be computed from two components, weighted as shown, and a possible attendance adjustment.

1. In-class exams [1/2]. As indicated in the syllabus, there are three in-class exams. In contrast to the syllabus, however, the exam dates are not tied to course content but are Wednesdays that are approximately 1/4, 1/2, and 3/4 way through the semester:

In-class Exams: September 23, October 28, December 2

The lowest grade will be dropped. There are no substitute or make-up exams: if you miss an in-class exam for any reason, the missed test is automatically the grade that is dropped.

2. Final exam [1/2]. The final exam is one that I will make out and will cover everything in the syllabus.

Final Exam: Monday, December 14, 2:00–4:30 pm

3. Attendance adjustment. If a student has perfect attendance then I will assign his course grade based on the greater of his course average and his score on the final exam. Thus for example if such a student has done poorly on all three in-class exams but has an 85 on the final, he will be assigned a B. If a student misses at most one class then I will assign the higher grade if the student's course average misses a grade cut-off by a percentage point or two. Being late for class two or more times will count as an absence in this scheme.

The grading scale is 90% for an A, 80% for a B, and cut-offs for the grades of C and D that depend on the performance of all students in the class.

3. Classroom standards.

1. Arrive on time, stay the whole time, and do not leave your seat during class. You are counted as absent if you leave the classroom once class has started, even if you return.
2. Bring a writing instrument and a back-up, paper, and the textbook with you to class.
3. Do not bring food or drink to class. Turn off cell phones, beepers, pagers, and so on. Do not wear headphones. Do not use a laptop or other electronic device.
4. Be attentive to the lecture, not talking while anyone is addressing the class.

4. Additional comments.

1. *Only the top two exam grades are used.* This policy is in place so that if you have to miss an exam, it will not hurt your grade, even though there is no make-up policy (see the following point). Thus if you take all three exams as you should, you get to drop the lowest score.
2. *No make-up exams.* You must take each regularly scheduled exam at the announced exam period, or not at all, even if you have a good reason for being absent, such as participation in a university sponsored event. The reason is simple: it too difficult to sort out the validity and relative merit of all the excuses that are given for not taking an exam at the scheduled time. So what happens if you can't take an exam? There is no real penalty: it is simply the grade that is dropped.
3. *Be on time; stay the whole time.* Students walking in late or leaving early is impolite, inconsiderate, and disruptive.
4. *Technology.* A calculator is unnecessary for this course.
5. *Communication by email.* Announcements are sent to your `name@uncc.edu` email address. The class is run on the assumption that you read this mail daily. Make sure that you empty your mailbox (or any mailbox to which mail is automatically forwarded) on a regular basis; in the past students have missed important information because their mailbox was so full that it could not accept new mail.
6. *Practice problem notebook.* Problems for practice are assigned almost every class period. Typically a few are reviewed in class the next class period. Purchase a spiral bound notebook and do your work on the practice problems in it, working them in numerical order and leaving space as necessary for the ones you skip or have trouble with. This makes it easy to find your work and compare it to the solution presented in class.

7. *Students with disabilities.* If you have a disability that impinges on your ability to take this course in the manner described above, then typically accommodation can be made. All such accommodations are handled in conjunction with the Office of Disability Services. You should contact them immediately if you have such a disability.