Math 321 - Differential Equations - Summer 2012

Instructor
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Office hours: M, T, H, F 9:30–10:30 or by appointment.

Web Resource
Our course materials will be kept on D2L, including your course grade. Many of the same materials (assignments, schedule, etc) can also be found at http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/marteb1/courses/m321/ which is also linked from my homepage.

Other Resources
The Math & Stats department has free tutoring available. A schedule can be found outside the department office. The Center for Academic Success (http://www.mnsu.edu/cas/) also offers walk-in tutoring in the lower level of the library. They are open during the summers from 11 am to 2 pm.

Required Text
A beginner’s guide to differential equations, by Brian F. Martensen, 2011.

Course Structure
This course meets five days a week for five weeks, each day for two hour block. Most days, I will present concepts and illustrate them with examples. Due to the rapid pace of this course, not all types of examples nor all topics of the book for which you are responsible are covered in lecture. Much of your homework will require you to study these additional topics on your own. Lecture will be as interactive as possible; I will ask and answer questions as well as give short in-class assignments.

Grading
Your grade will be based on a midterm exam, a quiz/homework grade and a final exam.

Midterm Exam (30%): The Midterm exam is in class and the dates are given below.

If you miss the exam because of a documented illness or family emergency, special arrangements will have to be made on the final exam - contact me immediately. If you will miss the exam for an official university function or for religious reasons, contact me well in advance of the exam.

Homework/Quizzes (30%): For each section of the book that we cover, you will be given a list of problems to do. Every other day, a quiz will be given at the end of class (approximately 10 minutes in length) over the material from the assignments. There may be additional quizzes both in-class and take-home. Some may be announced or not, be done individually or in groups. By the end of the semester we will have at least 12 quizzes of which I will drop the lowest two and your quiz grade will be the average of the remaining.

Additionally, we may cover some of the labs in the textbook. Any write-ups to be turned in from these assignments will be counted toward your quiz grade.

There will be no make-up quizzes
Do the homework as it is assigned.

Final Exam (40%): The final exam is cumulative. It is your chance to show me that you have truly mastered the material in the course.
In determining your final grade, earning a course average of 90% will guarantee you an A, 80% a B, etc. I may lower these percentages, but I will not raise them.

**Schedule**
A classroom calendar is maintained on the course’s webpage, though it is meant as a guide and is subject to change at the instructor’s discretion. The following are the planned exam dates:
- Midterm Exam: Tuesday, June 5, in class
- Final Exam: Friday, June 22, in class

**What you can do now to help your final grade**

READ! READ! READ! I hope that you will find the lectures brilliant and stimulating, but I simply will not go over every detail of the book in class. You will be tested over many of those details. It is my strongest advice that you read each section at least twice. However, reading it twice in a row will do you little, if any, good. You should plan to read each section once before you do the assignment and once after you do the assignment.

Students are strongly encouraged to work together and discuss homework. Ideally, you should discuss the homework with other students and then do the homework on your own. Each student must hand in his or her own work for any collected assignments, even if the ideas were created jointly.

**Take advantage of the discussion section!**
Read!
Do the Homework on time!
TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONES!
No surfing the web or instant messaging!
Keep your hands and feet inside the classroom at all times!
And Please, No Flash Photography!