Math 250: Ordinary Differential Equations
Spring 2010

Prerequisite: MATH 141 or MATH 141H. Students who have passed MATH 251 may not schedule this course for credit.


Course description and number of lectures:
The following topics of the text book will be covered (subject to minor changes):

- Chapter 1: Introduction
  - 1.1 Direction fields (1)
  - 1.2 Solutions of some differential equations (.5)
  - 1.3 Classification of differential equations (.5)

- Chapter 2: First order differential equations
  - 2.1 Linear equations; method of integrating factors (1.5)
  - 2.2 Separable equations (1.5)
  - 2.3 Modeling with first order equations (2)
  - 2.4 Differences between linear and nonlinear equations (1)
  - 2.5 Autonomous equations and population dynamics (1)

- Chapter 3: Second order linear differential equations
  - 3.1 Homogeneous equations with constant coefficients (1)
  - 3.2 Fundamental solutions of linear homogeneous equations; the Wronskian (2)
  - 3.3 Complex roots of the characteristic equation (1)
  - 3.4 Repeated roots; reduction of order (2)
  - 3.5 Nonhomogeneous equations; method of undetermined coefficients (3)
  - 3.7 Mechanical vibrations (omit electrical vibrations) (1)

- Chapter 4: Higher order linear equations
  - 4.1 General theory of nth order linear equations (1)
  - 4.2 Homogeneous equations with constant coefficients (1)
• Chapter 6: The Laplace transform
  ◦ 6.1 Definition of the Laplace transform (1)
  ◦ 6.2 Solutions of initial value problems (2)
  ◦ 6.3 Step functions (2)
  ◦ 6.4 Differential equations with discontinuous forcing functions (1)
  ◦ 6.5 Impulse functions (1)

• Chapter 7: Systems of first order linear equations
  ◦ 7.1 Introduction to systems of differential equations (1)
  ◦ 7.5–7.8 Classification of critical points and sketching phase portraits (4)
  ◦ 7.9 Nonhomogeneous linear systems (1)

• Chapter 8: Numerical methods
  ◦ 8.1 The Euler or tangent line method (1)

• Chapter 9: Nonlinear differential equations and stability
  ◦ 9.1 The phase plane: linear systems (1)
  ◦ 9.2 Autonomous systems and stability (1)
  ◦ 9.3 Locally linear systems (2)

• Review Periods = 5 (1 before Exam I, and 2 each before Exam II and the Final.)

A software package which draws direction fields and trajectories is freely available at the site http://math.rice.edu/~dfield/dfpp.html.

Examinations: Two 75-minute evening (6:30-7:45pm) examinations will be given during the semester and a comprehensive final examination will be given during the final examination period. The use of calculators is not permitted. You must bring your Student ID to the exams. The dates of the two midterm exams are as follows:

   EXAM I: February 24, 2010  EXAM II: March 25, 2010

Conflict examinations: For the two mid-semester examinations, there is a conflict examination from 5:05 to 6:20 PM on the same night as the regular exam. You must have a valid reason for taking the conflict exam, and you need to sign up with the Instructor at least five days before the exam date. You must bring your Student ID to the conflict exam. The ID will be checked by the exam proctor. Although the conflict exam will end at 6:20pm, no students will be permitted to leave the exam room before 6:25pm.
A student who leaves before 6:25 will receive a grade of zero on the exam and will not be allowed to retake it.

**Makeup examinations:** Students who have a valid verifiable reason are permitted to schedule a makeup examination at the discretion of the instructor. **You need to sign up with your instructor at least three days before the exam date.** The date and place will be announced later.

**Final examination:** A comprehensive final examination will be given during finals week, May 3 – 7. When the final exam schedule is released by the Registrar’s Office, you will be given information on filing for conflict exams if you have two exams at the same time, or three or more exams during a 15 hour period. These are the only valid reasons for filing for a conflict exam. **No make-up final exam will be given. Until the final exam schedule is known, do not arrange to leave University Park before May 8.** Notes, books, cell phones, calculators or similar items are not allowed in the final exam.

**Course Grades:** Grades will be assigned on the basis of 500 points, distributed as follows:

- Examination I 100 points
- Examination II 100 points
- Quizzes and Homework 150 points
- Final Exam 150 points

**Guideline for letter grades:** $\geq 450$ points guarantees an A or A-, $\geq 400$ points guarantees a B+, B or B-, $\geq 350$ points guarantees a C+ or C, $\geq 300$ points guarantees a D, and below 300 points will get an F.

**Academic integrity statement:** “Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, … facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students … A student charged with academic dishonesty will be given oral or written notice of the charge by the instructor. If students believe that they have been falsely accused, they should seek redress through informal discussions with the instructor, the department head, dean or campus executive officer. If the instructor believes that the infraction is sufficiently serious to warrant the referral of the case to Judicial Affairs, or if the instructor will award a final grade of F in the course because of the infraction, the student and instructor will be afforded formal due process procedures.” From *Policies and Rules, Student Guide to the University*, Policy 49–20. Please see the *Eberly College Academic Integrity* homepage for additional information and procedures.

**Tutors:** If you need extra help, a list of (paid) tutors is maintained in the Math Department Undergraduate Office in 104 McAllister Building.
Ordinary Differential Equations, Spring 2010
Math 250, Section 3

Mo, We, Fr 12:20 - 1:10pm in 323 HHD East

Instructor: Professor Kirsten Eisenträger
Office Hours: Mo 2:20 - 3pm, We 2:20 - 3pm, Th 1:45 - 2:15pm
Office: 422 McAllister Building
E-mail: eisentra at math.psu.edu
Website: http://www.math.psu.edu/eisentra/courses/math250/

Policy on homework assignments and quizzes: Homework will be assigned weekly and collected on the announced due date, usually on Friday. Quizzes will be given frequently. Due to the limited grading hours allotted to this course, the grader will grade all quiz problems and selected homework problems. There will be no make-up quizzes. Late homework will not be accepted. The two lowest homework scores and the two lowest quiz scores will be dropped at the end of the semester. Out of the 150 points assigned to homework and quizzes, 100 points will be for quizzes and 50 points will be for homework.