DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS SYLLABUS, FALL 2016

Course Webpage. `www.yashabk.com/teaching/2016fall/diffeq`.

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Exams.

- There will be three midterms on September 20, October 25, and November 15, 6:30pm to 8:30pm.
- The final will be on December 16, 10:30am to 12:30pm.
- Attendance is mandatory unless excused by the associate director of undergraduate studies.
- No calculators or other resources will be allowed during the exams.
- If there are issues with the grading of the exams, please contact me or the TA.

Homework. There are two homework components in this course.

(1) Webwork, usually due Thursdays at 5pm, available at `webwork.wustl.edu`.
(2) Written homework, usually due Fridays in class, available the course webpage.

- Late homework will not be accepted unless excused by the associate director of undergraduate studies.
- If there are issues with Webwork, please use the "email instructor" button.
- If there are issues with the grading of the written homework, please contact the graders. We will correct any grading mistakes. For other concerns, keep in mind that it would not be fair to adjust the grading rubric for individual students.

Collaboration. To succeed on the homework, you should work together with your peers. However, there is a limit to how much collaboration is acceptable. Here are some general guidelines:

- While you should discuss the problems with others, you should write up your solutions on your own.
- If you get a good grade on a Webwork or written homework problem, you should also be able to do well on a pop quiz with that problem on it.
- Webwork will give different students different numbers in the problems. You should discuss the general techniques for solving the problems, but you should not discuss the particular numbers you have.
- You should not look at another student's written solution to a problem, but you are welcome to ask them about the general techniques they used to solve it.
- It's possible to get around the letter of this policy while violating its spirit, for example, by reading your written solution aloud to other students instead of showing it to them. Needless to say, that's also unacceptable.
- Feel free to email me if there are gray areas in this policy that need clarification.

Lecture.

- Attendance is not mandatory. I'll leave it to you to make good (or bad) decisions about the best use of your time.
- If you attend lecture, I expect you to pay attention.
- Phones and computers are iffy because, although they have valid uses in lecture, they also have a tendency to distract both you and the people around you. If you expect that you'll end up getting distracted by activities unrelated to lecture, then don't use your electronics, or sit closer to the back where they're less likely to distract others.

Office Hours and Help Sessions.

- Apart from exams, office hours are your only opportunity to get personalized feedback from me on your techniques.
- It's a good idea to go to office hours occasionally regardless of how you're doing in the course.
- My office hours are listed on the calendar on the course webpage.
- The TA runs help sessions, which are also listed on that calendar.
- The TA, as well as the TAs for other courses, are available in the calculus help room. See `www.math.wustl.edu/~blake/calculus/` for the schedule.

Course Staff.

- The TA is Mohammad Jabbari, `jabbari@wustl.edu`.
- The graders are Yizhi Jiang, `yizhi.jiang@wustl.edu`, Christopher Lin, `c.lin@wustl.edu`, and David Zhang, `tianzong.zhang@wustl.edu`.
- The associate director of undergraduate studies is Blake Thornton, `bthornton@wustl.edu`.

Textbook. It's a good idea to read the textbook, particularly the words. If you're having trouble following the lectures, the only way that's going to get better is by reading the textbook before lecture.

Grading.

- I will combine grades with the following weights:
  - 10% Webwork,
  - 10% written homework,
  - 60% midterms, 20% each, and
  - 20% final.
- Per department recommendation, I will assign grades by taking the unrounded combined grade G and using the following scale:
  - A: $90 \leq G$.
  - A-: $85 \leq G < 90$.
  - B+: $80 \leq G < 85$.
  - B: $75 \leq G < 80$.
  - B-: $70 \leq G < 75$.
  - C+: $65 \leq G < 70$.
  - C: $60 \leq G < 65$.
  - C-: $55 \leq G < 60$.
  - D: $50 \leq G < 55$.
  - F: $G < 50$.
- Per department recommendation, if the mean score on a midterm or final is below 75%, then I will add the difference to each student's score so that the mean is 75%.
- Your grades will be available on Blackboard at `bb.wustl.edu`.