

Welcome to Section ES31 of MATH-2200 (Differential Equations) at Southeast Community College in the Spring term of 2018.

Contact information

Instructor: Toby Bartels.

Web page (for course policies and assignments): <http://TobyBartels.name/MATH-2200/2018SU/>.

Moodle page (for grades): <http://online.southeast.mrooms3.net/course/view.php?id=68578>.

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Class hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 11:00 to 12:20 in ESQ 101.

Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays from 12:30 to 1:30 PM, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:00 to 1:30 PM, and by appointment, in ESQ 112.

Assignments

The course will be divided into five sections, each with a corresponding problem set and quiz; there is also a comprehensive final exam at the end. For each section, I'll assign exercises from the textbook (and maybe some problems of my own), which you should do at home after reading the textbook and attending lectures.

As you work on these exercises, whether before, during, or after class, you can use your textbook and any notes that you took during your reading. You can also use calculators (unless explicitly forbidden). Finally, you can ask me for help if necessary, and you can take advantage of tutoring opportunities at SCC.

The quizzes will be taken individually and closely based on the problem sets that you were working on. When taking the quizzes, you may use calculators (but not communication devices such as cell phones) and any notes that you wrote yourself (including the problem sets that you did), but *not* your textbook or anything else not written by you.

There will be a comprehensive final exam on September 19 Wednesday. To speed up grading at the end of the term, the exam will be multiple choice and (possibly) filling in blanks, with no partial credit (except possibly on extra credit problems). For the final exam, you may use one sheet of notes that you wrote yourself. However, you may not use your book or anything else not written by you. I will have a mock exam ready at least two weeks before the actual exam.

Grading

You can see your grade, as far as I have it calculated at any given time, by logging in to the Moodle site.

Here are the assignments that contribute to your grade, with their frequencies and percentage of the final grade:

- Biweekly problem sets, graded for completeness: 30% total;
- Biweekly quizzes, graded for correctness: 50% total;
- A comprehensive final exam (September 19 Wednesday): 20%.

Nothing else directly affects your grade. However, there will be extra-credit problems on the problem sets, which I will grade for correctness.

Strictly speaking, there is no curve, so you are not competing against your fellow students. However, if grades don't turn out as I expect, then I'll consider whether an assignment was more difficult than I intended and adjust the grades accordingly (usually by making a hard problem extra credit).

Sometimes you will be required to show some of your work; make sure that you read and follow the instructions! To get as much credit as possible, it's good to explain your answers as clearly as you can, even when the instructions don't specifically ask you to. If you can convince me that you know what you're doing, then you'll get some credit. But if it looks as if you just pulled an answer out of thin air (or the back of the book), then you won't get credit.

I also suggest that you cross out (and *not* erase) any significant amount of work that you decide is incorrect, in case you later want to look at it after all; this also makes it easier to read the paper later. Along the same lines, I'd appreciate it if your papers are cleanly detached (not torn out of a spiral notebook) and of a normal size (not scraps or notecards). Finally, if you have several sheets that aren't properly fastened together, then make sure that you have your name on each sheet.

Attendance

I need to take attendance every day for purposes of financial aid; if you fail the class, then I must report your last date of attendance. If this is too early, then this can affect your financial aid. If you don't show up at all during the first week or so, then you'll be automatically dropped from the class at the worst possible time (when you'll still have to pay for it but probably won't get much if any financial aid for it). On the other hand, if you decide to drop the class after you show up, then you'll need to fill out a withdrawal form to do that. But check with the financial aid office before you drop; in fact, sometimes it's best not to drop at all if you're going to take the class again and pass it.

I will normally use your turned-in work to take attendance, so make sure that you sign the attendance sheet if you don't turn anything in. (On the first day of class, I'll pass around the attendance sheet.) If you expect to be absent, then tell me ahead of time! That way, we can arrange for you to ask any questions that you need and to make up work. If you can't contact me ahead of time, then contact me as soon as possible. Once I grade an assignment for correctness, you won't be able to make it up, but I can delay grading it or arrange an exception if you're in touch with me. You can turn in problem sets for completeness at any time through the last day of the term (September 20 Thursday), and you can resubmit them until that date if they are incomplete.

I'm not concerned with the reasons for your absence or tardiness; what's important is that you communicate with me about it. On the other hand, if you want a late drop or an incomplete, then you will need a good reason with unusual circumstances, such as a serious administrative error by the college or a major disruption out of your control.

Schedule

The first day of class (July 11 Wednesday), I'll discuss the administrative aspects of the course and give a brief introduction to the topic of differential equations. If you miss this day, then you shouldn't suffer too much for it, but you'll want to get the administrative information. The next day (July 13 Friday), the class will begin in earnest.

The official textbook is the 5th Edition of *Differential Equations and Boundary Value Problems: Computing and Modeling* by Edwards et al published by Prentice Hall (Pearson). We cover Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5, and 7, as well as Section 1 of each of Chapters 4 and 6, but not Sections 2.5, 2.6, 3.4, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8, 5.5, 5.6, or 7.6. Here is the complete list of covered sections: 1.1–1.6, 2.1–2.4, 3.1–3.3, 3.5, 4.1, 5.1–5.4, 6.1, 7.1–7.5. Here they are again, in the approximate order in which I intend to cover them: 1.1–1.6, 3.1–3.3, 3.5, 4.1, 5.1–5.4, 2.1–2.4, 6.1, 7.1–7.5. I'll announce it ahead of time if I change this order.

For the (possibly updated) schedule of specific dates for each problem set, check the homework assignments online. Quizzes are about once every other week. There is also a comprehensive final exam on September 19 Wednesday.

The last day to drop the course with a full refund is July 18 Wednesday; the last day to drop at all is September 4 Tuesday. There is no school on September 3 Monday. By August 16 Thursday, your midterm grade estimates should be available on WebAdvisor; your final grades should be available there by September 24 Monday. Follow your grades on Moodle if you want to know them faster.