Course Outline: Math 3860-001, Spring 06

Office hours

My office hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 9:20–9:50 and 10:50–11:10 — that is, immediately before and after class — in the Rocket Hall lobby. This means that you can call or stop by at these times without an appointment and I am sure to be there.

I am also available at other times, but for these you must make an appointment. Feel free to ask for office hour appointments at other times if you cannot make it to my official office hours. If you call me when I am not in my office then you can leave a voice mail message and I will get back to you as soon as I can. I tend to listen to my voice mail messages only on Wednesdays after class, so often email is a faster way to get in touch with me.

> Office: UH 4080e. Phone: 419 530 2975.
> Email: paul.hewitt at utoledo.edu.
> Web page: http://livetoad.org/.

Text and syllabus

We will cover chapters 1–9 of *Elementary Differential Equations*, 8th edition, by W Boyce and R DiPrima. Here is a detailed calendar.

ML King Day	Mon	16 Jan	
Quiz 1	Mon	23 Jan	
Quiz 2	Fri	3 Feb	
Quiz 3	Fri	17 Feb	
Quiz 4	Fri	3 Mar	*last day to withdraw*
Spring Break		6–10 Mar	
Quiz 5	Fri	17 Mar	
Quiz 6	Fri	31 Mar	
Quiz 7	Fri	14 Apr	
Quiz 8	Fri	28 Apr	*last day of classes*
Final Exam	Wed	3 May	10:15–12:15

Prerequisites

This course makes heavy use of the material from Calc I and Calc II (but very little from Calc III). You are expected to know this material before you register for this class. If you know this material well then this class will be fun and easy. If not then you will struggle to avoid failure. I will spend the first week reviewing the prerequisite material.

Lecture notes and problem sets

I will regularly post lecture notes on the web. These will include homework assignments, with due dates. Each problem set will be worth 10 points. Your 10 best scores will count towards your final grade. Your solutions must be neat and show all work. If you do not show your work then you will not receive credit for your solution. When you turn in your assignment fold your papers lengthwise, and write your name, the course number, and due date on the outside.

Quizzes and the final exam

We will have 8 30-minute quizzes, each with 5 10-point questions. There will be two types of questions: computational problems, chosen from the exercises in the text; and multiple choice questons based on the definitions, terminology, and theorems discussed in the lecture notes. I will post a list of problems from the text which you should study and also a few sample questions based on the lecture notes. (For Quiz 1 the computational problems will be taken from the lecture notes, not the text.)

The final exam is optional. It will be a comprehensive exam, covering all the material of the course, worth 200 points. If you choose to take the final exam you can use it to replace 4 quiz scores.

Attendance

I will not accept late assignments under any circumstances. It will not affect your final grade if you miss one or two assignments since only your 10 best scores count towards your final grade. However, if you are in the habit of missing classes and assignments regularly then probably you will fail. Making up missed assignments or quizzes will not help. There will be no exceptions to this rule. Ever. Don't ask.

I will give make-up quizzes only in case of a documented emergency, such as illness or a funeral. If you are sick the day of the exam then you must call or email that same day if you expect to be able to make up the exam. Otherwise you must arrange for a make-up quiz ahead of time. If I am not in my office then you can leave a voice mail message. If you fail to show up for a quiz and do not contact me about it until afterwords then you will not be able to make up that quiz — you will get a 0 for that quiz.

If, prior to 24 March, you stop coming to class for more than a week without contacting me then I will give you an IW (instructor's withdrawal). If you stop attending after that date then you will get an F. If you need an IW because you are unable to finish the class for some reason then you must contact me before 24 March, since that is the last day that IW grades can be assigned.

Grades

I will determine final grades based on the class-wide distribution of points earned. I want to emphasize that you are not in direct competition with each other. I do not feel obligated to give any grades of F, or any grades of A for that matter. I will not split hairs. I do not have a set grade scale. You will find that the grade distribution breaks into obvious groups. Historically in my classes it takes 85–90% of the points to earn an A; around 70–75% for a B; and around 60% for a C. However, these are not rigid targets, just historical observations. After the first quiz I will post a histogram of total points earned, and this should give you a clearer idea of where you stand.

If you want me to post your grades under a nickname then bring me a 3 × 5 card with your name, an email address, and the nickname you want to use — preferably something not obvious!