Course Outline: Math 3860-021, Summer II 2006

Office hours

My office hours: Monday thru Thursday, 1pm–3pm, in UH 4080e. 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 posted 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, 2, 7, 3, 5, and 6 (in that order) of *Elementary Differential Equations*, 8th edition, by W Boyce and R DiPrima. Here is a detailed calendar.

Exam 1: calculus review	Tue	27 Jun
Independence Day	Tue	4 Jul
Exam 2: chapters 1 and 2	Thu	6 Jul
Last day to withdraw	Fri	14 Jul
Exam 3: chapters 7 and 3	Thu	20 Jul
Exam 4: chapters 5 and 6	Thu	3 Aug

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 day reviewing the prerequisite material. We will have our first exam, based on this material, on the second day. You should expect to pass this first exam with a score of at least 80%. If you score less than this then you should seriously reconsider whether you are prepared to take this course, especially in a compressed 6-week time frame.

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 20 points. Your five 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.

Exams

We will have four exams, each worth 100 points. There will be two types of questions: computational problems, chosen from the exercises in the text; and multiple choice questions based on the definitions, terminology, and theorems discussed in the lecture notes. In the lecture notes I will include lists of problems from the text, which you should practice. I will also include sample concept questions.

If at the end of the course you are not satisfied with your final grade then you will have the option of taking a two-hour, comprehensive final exam. If you choose to take the final exam you can use it to replace all four exam scores.

Attendance

I will *never* accept assignments late under any circumstances. It will not affect your final grade if you miss an assignment since only your five 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 the course. Making up missed assignments will not help. There will be no exceptions to this rule. Ever. Don't ask.

I will give make-up exams 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 exam — you will get a 0 for that exam.

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 exam 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!