Course Outline: Math 3860-001, Spring 07

Office hours

My office hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 1:00–1:50 — that is, immediately after class — 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 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 the exam schedule.

Exam 1	Fri	12 Jan	
ML King Day	Mon	15 Jan	
Exam 2	Fri	2 Mar	
Spring Break		5–9 Mar	
Exam 3	Mon	30 Apr	12:30-2:30

Prerequisites

This course makes heavy use of the material from Calc I and Calc II, and a little bit 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 reading comprehension quizzes and computational exercises. We will start the exercise sets in class and you will finish them at home. These will not be turned in for grade. However, these will form the pool of questions for the quizzes.

Quizzes

We will have approximately 15 twenty-minute quizzes, each with 3 or 4 questions, for a total of 10 points. Your 10 best scores will count towards your final grade. There will be two types of questions: computational problems and multiple choice questions. Both types will be chosen from the lecture notes.

I will not announce the quiz dates ahead of time. I will not give make-up quizzes under any circumstances. Ever. If you miss a quiz then that is one of the scores you drop.

Exams

There will be three exams, each worth 100 points. Exam 1 will be at the end of the first week, Friday, 12 January. It will cover the prerequisite differential and integral calculus. Exam 2 will be right before Spring Break, Friday, 2 March. It will cover first-order equations, systems of equations, and numerical methods (chapters 1, 2, 7, 8, and 9). Exam 2 will be at the beginning of final exams week, Monday, 30 April. It will cover higher-order linear equations, including eigenfunctions, power series, and Laplace transforms (chapters 3, 4, 5, and 6). For each exam I will post practice problems. In fact, the problems for Exam 1 should already be posted, under the Calc Review link.

Attendance

I will not give make-up quizzes under any circumstances. It will not affect your final grade if you miss one or two quizzes since only your 10 best scores count towards your final grade. However, if you are in the habit of missing classes regularly then probably you will fail. Making up missed quizzes 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 an exam 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.

There is a new policy in effect at the University, and I am no longer able to issue an Instructor's Withdrawal (IW). If you stop attending then I will report this to the Registrar, who will attempt to contact you about your status in the class. However if you wish to avoid a failing grade for the class then it is up to you to initiate a withdrawal.

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 the cutoff for an A is somewhere around 85–90%; for a B it is somewhere around 70–75%; and for a C it is somewhere around 60–70%. However, these are not rigid targets, just historical observations. The cutoffs for this class could be higher or lower. After the first few quizzes 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!