

Prof. S. Brick
Math 238

Syllabus: Applied Differential Equations

Fall '09
section 101

Time and Place: 12:30pm–1:45pm, TR in ILB 360

Instructor: Prof. Steve Brick, ILB 317.

office hours: MWF 12:30pm-2:00pm.

web page: see the relevant pages at <http://www.southalabama.edu/mathstat/>

Method of contact: Messages can be left for the instructor at the department office, ILB 325 either in person or by phone: 460-6264. But the process of leaving a message containing a request should never be construed as having had the request granted. Due to spam and viruses, email will only be read if it is sent from a University email address (i.e. one with the domain “*usouthal.edu*”). Confidential information, such as grades, will never be given out over the phone or in email.

Text and goals: *Differential Equations and Boundary Value Problems*, fourth edition by Edwards and Penney. We will cover selected material from chapters 1-4 and 7 as time permits. The course will provide an introduction to the basic methods, theory, and applications of differential equations.

Prerequisite: Students should have taken or be taking MA 227.

Attendance: You are responsible for everything that happens each and every class day, including but not limited to handouts, homework, quizzes, exams, and syllabus changes. Each student should contact other classmates for any missed material. Students are expected to participate in the class and not to be just passive observers. It is imperative that students come to class prepared.

Attendance and Grades: Attendance will be taken. Students who miss class should bring written excuses to the next class meeting. Only serious, valid and documented reasons will excuse an absence. Each student is permitted two unexcused absences. For each additional unexcused absence, the student's final grade for the course will be lowered by one full letter grade.

Homework Assignments: Homework will be assigned in class. The homework will not be collected or graded. But failure to do the homework will almost certainly result in failing grades.

Calculators: Students are required to have a calculator and to know how to use it. **Unless otherwise stated, use of calculators will not be permitted on quizzes or exams.**

Study Groups and Tutors: Study groups outside of class are strongly encouraged. Often the best way to learn material is to explain it to someone else. The department runs a free tutoring lab. Some students also find private tutors helpful. In any case, the more effort put into a class, the more likely a good grade is.

Quizzes and Exams: There will be frequent unannounced short quizzes. The quizzes are all extra-credit and will be graded very strictly, with points given only if all the work is shown in a clear and concise manner. There will be two midterm exams given during the semester with exact dates to be announced in class. There will be a two hour final exam. Each student must take the final during the official exam period. See the official schedule of classes for the exact date and time. If there is any ambiguity about the time of the final, it will be resolved in class at the end of the semester.

Notecard: Exams are all closed book and notes with the exception of a single small index card of notes measuring no more than 3 inches by 5 inches. Both sides of the index card may be used. The students are free to put any information on their cards and to update them frequently.

Make-up Tests: There will be no make-up quizzes given. Make-up exams will only be given for documented illnesses or other serious reasons (a vacation is never a valid reason). Early exams, including the final, will not be given. Do not make any vacation plans that conflict with the final exam.

Grading: The two midterms will be worth 100 points each. The final exam will be worth 150 points. The quizzes will be extra-credit points. Letter grades will not be assigned until the end of the semester. Instead, students will be given information about the distribution of scores. The method of grade assignment will be a strict percentage scale. Cheating of any form will not be tolerated and will result in an automatic F for the course.

Grade Posting: Grades and any other confidential information will not be posted in the building, nor will they be given out over the phone, nor on the web, nor by email. Instead students should use the University's online PAWS system. If after the course grade has been submitted the student wishes to obtain more information, then he or she should make an appointment after the semester break.

Failing and Extra Help: It is the student's responsibility to seek extra help as needed. Do not wait until you are failing before doing so. If you decide to drop the course, feel free to speak with the department chair or assistant to the chair beforehand for counsel. Be sure to check the University policy on the deadlines for dropping a course.

Note: If you have a specific disability that qualifies you for academic accommodations, please notify me and provide certification from the Office of Special Student Services. This office is located in the Student Center, Room 270, Phone 460-7212.

Class policies may change without prior notice. Any such change will be announced in class. Failure to attend class does not excuse the student from any changes. Any change will be made available in hardcopy in class or as a pdf file online within 2 weeks of the change. There is no assumption of any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any information disclosed here. De minimis non curat lex.