Mathematics 125-104

MWF 10:10-11:00AM, ILB 345; Tu 9:30-10:20 ILB 345


Instructor: Prof. Scott Carter, ILB 304, 460-6264, x66756, e-mail: carter@jaguar1.usouthal.edu

Office Hours: MTWR 11:06AM-12:00PM; MTu 1:30PM or by appointment. You are encouraged to come to office hours to ask about the course and to get acquainted.

Grading Policies: All points earned are positive points. The total number of possible points will depend on the number of quizzes that are given, and the number of points on the tests. Last semester, for example, there were 519 points possible. Students who had more than 400 points during that semester earned As. Of course, the performance of students in the past does not affect your own performance. You should work to earn above 90% of the possible points.

There will be written quizzes that cover the homework assignments. These will be held every Monday and Friday and on unannounced days as I deem necessary. Quiz points will range from 3 to 10 points each. Anticipate that the total possible quiz grade will be in the range of 100 to 150 points.

Tests: There will be 2 tests, Friday February 19 and Friday April 9. Each counts at least 100 points. According to my reading of

http://www.southalabama.edu/registrar/dates.htm

the final is scheduled on Monday May 3, 2010 from 10:30 AM until 12:30 PM.

If you have a *good excuse* for not making it to one of the exams, then your final exam will count as if it were 250 points. However, lenience in grading policy will only be granted if you ask, and the final determination, if it is warranted, is up to me. As a result *make-up exams* will be an extreme rarity.

Scoring: There will be more than 450 points available. If you miss a quiz, you do not earn points. I will keep you informed on the total number of points that possibly can be earned as these points are earned. Thus your quiz papers will contain a score for the quiz and a cumulative score expressed as an unreduced fraction.

I will keep track of the possible denominator, but towards the end of the semester, I will grade your total points out of a fictitious denominator that is less than or equal to the actual denominator. You will always be able to compute your cumulative points. You should pretend that your grade is on a standard, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90% scale even though I will show some lenience towards the end.

I encourage excellence on your part, and I hope to achieve excellence myself.

Absences: Habitually absent students lose privileges: *E.g.* office hours, sensitive answers to in class questions, and grading appeals. The syllabus is subject to change and clarification. Therefore, class attendance is important. Also there are unannounced quizzes. If you miss a day on which there is a quiz, you do not earn these points.

If you do not understand an explanation on Monday, it may be the case that clarification is given on Wednesday.

Goals for the Course: (1) deep familiarity with the standard linear, polynomial, rational, algebraic, and transcendental functions with respect to their critical behavior, regions of increase and
decrease, and concavity properties; (2) a deep understanding (both conceptual and computational) of the idea of a limit; (3) the technical skills necessary to understand, interpret, and compute the derivative as a rate of change, as a linear approximation, and as a tool for optimization problems; (4) the ability to compute simple anti-derivatives and interpret the difference in values of such as an area; (5) the ability to state and prove results about limits, derivatives, mean values, and the fundamental theorem of calculus.

Other Remarks:

1. **Calculators**: You may use a calculator for your homework, but there are only a few quizzes for which the calculator is allowed. Sometimes it is an essential tool, more often it is a cumbersome burden.

2. **Blue books** On or before January 22, supply me with 3 large blank blue books. Do not write your name on the blue books! Do not purchase your blue books at Ander’s bookstore; if you do, I will ask you to return them. These will be used for tests and the final.

3. **Special Students** If you have a specific disability that qualifies you for academic accommodations, please notify the instructor/professor and provide certification from Special Student Services. (OSSS is located in Room 270 of the Student Center (460-7212).

4. **Departmental tutoring** Free tutoring is available for elementary course from the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. Please check the bulletin board outside ILB 325 for details.

5. **Disclaimer** I have the right and the duty to modify the requirements of the course as circumstances dictate. Such changes will be provided to the students in class and in writing. This is another reason that attendance is mandatory.

6. **Dropping** The final drop date is March 24, 2010 before 4:59PM. Please speak to me if you are getting behind. Also talk to me before making a final decision to drop.

7. **Pep-talk.** Please see the attached pep-talk. Get to know your peers in this class and in my other section. Work together so that everyone learns more.