

Math 251 Spring 2009 §10 Syllabus

Instructor Data:

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Office:	017 McAllister
Office Hours:	MW 2:30-3:30p T 11-12

Availability: During office hours, I will definitely be in my office with you as my first priority. Any other time, while you're free to ask me a question, if I'm particularly busy I may ask you to wait a bit. I tend to respond to email quickly. Make sure you include "math251" in the email subject.

Course Description: This course will cover first and second order differential equations, Laplace transforms, systems of first order differential equations, and some partial differential equations (the heat and wave equations, Fourier series)

Textbook: *Elementary Differential Equations and Boundary Value Problems*, 9th edition, W.E. Boyce and R.C. DiPrima. Feel free to use an older edition of the book if you've got one or it's cheap; just make sure problem numbers match up.

Homework: Homework will be due roughly every Wednesday (this schedule will be complicated by exam weeks, but you'll know when things are due). Homeworks are due at the end of class on the appropriate day. I do *not* accept late homework. Your top ten homeworks will count towards your grade.

Quizzes: Quizzes will be given roughly every Thursday (as with homeworks, this schedule will be complicated by exam weeks, but I don't give pop quizzes; you'll have plenty of notice). Your top ten quizzes count towards your grade. I do not give makeup quizzes.

Examinations: There will be two evening midterm exams and a final exam. The midterm exams will be held on *Thursday, February 26* and *Thursday, March 26* from 6:30-7:45. The date and time of the final exam will be announced later, as will all exam locations. *You are responsible for verifying locations, dates, and times of all exams.* As the final exam will be held sometime during finals week, don't make plans to leave State College before the end of that week. Sign up for conflicts and makeups for the midterms in 104 McAllister and for the final exam through the Registrar. Taking the makeup without a University approved excuse will result in a 20% penalty. You may not use calculators, notes, or books on any exams.

Grades: Grades will be allocated out of 500 points:

Midterm 1	100
Midterm 2	100
In-Class	150
Final	150
TOTAL	500

Grade cutoffs are completely tentative and subject to change. Assume that an A is 90% (450 points), a B is 80% (400 points), a C is 70% (350 points), and a D is 60% (300 points).

Academic Integrity: All the standard Penn State and Eberly College of Science policies about academic integrity apply to this course. In short: don't cheat and don't take credit for things that aren't yours, or bad things will happen. Think of it as a sort of karma.