

Math 251 Spring 2008 §3 Syllabus

Course Description: This is a first course in the study of ordinary and partial differential equations. Topics considered include first order equations, second order equations, higher order equations, Laplace transforms, systems of first order equations, Fourier series, second order partial differential equations, and applications.

Prerequisite: Math 141 or equivalent.

Lectures:

Day/Time	Room
MWF 10:10-11	213 Buckhout
R 10:10-11	111 Tyson

Instructor:

Name	Vivek Srikrishnan
E-Mail	srikrish@math.psu.edu
Office	017 McAllister
Office Hours	MW 11:15-12:05 TR 1:25-2:15

Website: A website for the course can be found at <http://www.math.psu.edu/srikrish/math251>. The website will contain course information, homeworks, announcements, a course calender, and lecture notes.

Textbook: *Elementary Differential Equations and Boundary Value Problems*, 8th edition, W.E. Boyce and R.C. Diprima. Earlier editions are acceptable as well.

Exams: Two 75 minute midterm exams will be given from 6:30-7:45pm on February 28 and April 7 in rooms to be announced. Students with midterm conflicts should sign up for the conflict or makup exam with the instructor as soon as possible and no later than 72 hours before the exam is scheduled.

A comprehensive final exam will be given during the final exam period between Monday, May 5 and Friday, May 9 with the room, date, and time to be announced. There are two types of final exam conflicts: direct and overload. A direct conflict results from two exams scheduled at the same time. Students with a direct conflict must register for conflict final exams with the University Registrar. Overload conflicts are when three or more examinations are scheduled within a fifteen hour period measured from the start of the first exam to the end of the third exam. Students with an overload conflict may elect to take all three exams as scheduled or they may sign up for a conflict final exam with the University Registrar. *No final exam conflicts can be directly scheduled with the Mathematics Department.* Students must file for direct or overload conflict final exams during the Final Exam Conflict Filing Period between Monday, February 18 and Sunday, March 2. Students should not plan to leave University Park before the end of the final exam period on Saturday, May 10, 2008.

No calculators, books, or notes may be used on any exam.

Homework: Homework will be assigned weekly on the course website and due each Wednesday *by the end of class*. Late homework will not be accepted without prior arrangement and under extraordinarily rare circumstances. Homework also should be organized and neatly secured if longer than one page (i.e., no dog ears). All students should write their names on their homework: points will be deducted otherwise. Collaboration is allowed and encouraged on homework but everyone must hand in their own work. Calculators may be used on homeworks but their use is not recommended. The top ten homework scores will count towards the final homework grade.

Late Drop: Students may add or drop the course without academic penalty during the first ten calendar days of the semester, i.e., before Wednesday, January 23, 2008. A student may late drop the course within the first twelve weeks of the semester but will accrue 4 late drop credits. Baccalaureate students are limited to 16 late drop credits. The late drop deadline for the Spring 2008 semester is Friday, April 11, 2008. The withdrawal deadline is Friday, May 2, 2008.

Regrades: If you believe a problem on a homework or exam has been incorrectly marked, the paper may be resubmitted no later than a week after it was returned with a written note explaining why the problem was actually correct. Note that this does not apply to partial credit, but to problems erroneously marked as incorrect.

Practice Problems: On the website, corresponding to each lecture, there will be practice problems from the book posted. These will not be collected but are strongly encouraged.

Grades: Grades will be computed according to the following formula.

Homework	100 points
Midterm 1	100 points
Midterm 2	100 points
Final	150 points
Total	450 points

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

A	450-405 points	C+	344-330 points
A-	404-390 points	C	329-315 points
B+	389-375 points	D	314-270 points
B	374-360 points	F	269-000 points
B-	359-345 points		

These cutoffs are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. No information will be given concerning a curve, so do not ask about it.

Tutors and Math Center: If (paid) extra help is required, the Mathematics Department Undergraduate Office (in 104 McAllister) maintains a list of private tutors. The list is available online at <http://www.math.psu.edu/ug/PrivateTutorList.htm>. It is also available through the Undergraduate Studies in Mathematics homepage at <http://www.math.psu.edu/UG..> In addition, the Math Center offers limited (free) tutoring for Math 251. More information can be found at <http://www.ulc.psu.edu/mathcenter.php>.

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest and responsible manner. Academic integrity is a basic guiding principle for all academic activity at the Pennsylvania State University, and all members of the University community, including students, are expected to act with personal integrity, to respect other students dignity, rights and property, and to help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed through the fruits of their efforts. Academic integrity includes a commitment not to engage in or tolerate acts of falsification, misrepresentation or deception. Such acts of dishonesty violate the fundamental ethical principles of the University community and compromise the worth of work completed by others. From *Policies and Rules, Student Guide to University Policy 49-30*:

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, ..., facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with academic work of other students... A student

charged with academic dishonesty will be given oral or written notice of the charge by the instructor. If students believe that they have been falsely accused, they should seek redress through informal discussions, with the instructor, the department head, Dean or campus executive officer. If the instructor believes that the infraction is sufficiently serious to warrant the referral of the case to Judicial Affairs, or if the instructor will award a final grade of F in the course because of the infraction, the student and instructor will be afforded formal due process procedures.”

Based on the University’s Faculty Senate Policy 49-20, a range of academic sanctions may be taken against a student who engages in academic dishonesty. Please see the Eberly College of Science Academic Integrity homepage for additional information and procedures.