Ordinary Differential Equations, MATH 250, Spring 2010
Instructor: Dr. Joseph Previte
Section 1: Room 167N Nick, M W F 03:35PM - 04:25PM

This document and other course information may be found at the class website: http://math.bd.psu.edu/faculty/jprevite/250sp10

Prerequisites: Math 141 (Calculus II).

Instructor: Joseph Previte  
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Office: 17 Prischak Building  
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Office Hours: MWF: 4:30P- 5:00 PM; Tues 2:00-4:00PM (or by appointment);


Topics: We will be covering: First Order ODE, Applications, Linear Second and Higher Order ODE, Applications, Laplace Transforms, Series Solutions

Calculators: Calculators will not be allowed during testing. Some homework problems will require a calculator or MAPLE to help solve.

Homework, Quizzes, and Projects: Two sets of homework problems will be given every class day, one list mandatory and one list suggested. Homework assignments will be collected regularly and will consist of the small list of mandatory problems to be submitted and graded. All students are strongly suggested to do the recommended problems as well, as many quiz and exam problems will be based off of these. At the beginning of every class (except test days), I will take questions from the previous day's assignment. I urge you to do the assignments as they are given. Homework will be graded on correctness (as a quiz or test), you will not get any credit for just trying a problem. Homework assignments may include MAPLE labs and group projects. At least 2 of your lowest homework scores will be dropped. All quizzes are announced (generally there may be around 3 quizzes in a semester).

Tests: There will be 3 full-period exams and one cumulative final exam. Test dates will be announced at least 1 week before the test.

Grading: Grades will be calculated as follows:

- Exams (3 at 20% each) ; 60%
- Homework, Projects, & Quizzes 20%
- Final Exam 20%

100%

Grade cutoffs will be as follows:

- A: 93, A-: 90, B+: 87, B: 83, B-: 80, C+: 77, C: 70, D: 60

Make-ups: A Make-up exams will only be given with a documented University-approved excuse, late homework will not be accepted. I drop 2-3 of your lowest assignments for this reason.

Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and typically results in a failing grade for the class. The school's academic integrity code can be found at:
http://www.pserie.psu.edu/faculty/academics/integrity/htm

Conduct in class: You are expected to act appropriately in the classroom. Below are some examples that, depending on their severity or frequency, may inhibit or interfere with normal classroom operation: Cell phone/beeper/texting interruptions, direct challenges to instructor authority, eating/drinking in the classroom, arriving late/leaving early, vulgar or offensive behavior, excessive chattering, reading newspaper or other overt inattention, talking out of turn and/or dominating discussion. As per Penn State guidelines, I have the authority to request that a disruptive student leave the classroom.

A note on MATH 250: This class gets progressively harder as it goes on. It starts in familiar territory (First Order ODE) and ends with one of the hardest topics (Series and Laplace Transforms). You need to remember this and not slack off at start!