

Math 251, Spring 2007

Dr. Sarah Raynor

Textbook: Elementary Differential Equations and Boundary Value Problems, Eighth Edition, Boyce and DiPrima. ISBN: 0-471-43338-1.

Office: Manchester 343

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Office Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 3:00-4:00pm. To see me at other times, I recommend emailing ahead to be sure I am available.

Email: raynorsg@wfu.edu

Course Website: <http://www.wfu.edu/~raynorsg/math251.html>

Prerequisites:

Two semesters of calculus, including sequences and series.

Course:

This course is a first course in ordinary differential equations. We will cover linear and nonlinear first order equations, including separable and exact equations. We will also study second order linear equations, including power series solutions. Finally, we will study systems of first order differential equations. The focus of the course will be on modeling real world problems using differential equations and on understanding the qualitative behavior of solutions to each type of equation.

Please contact me ASAP if you will need to miss class due to a university-sponsored activity, such as athletics. Also, if you have a disability that may require an accommodation for taking this course, please contact the Learning Assistance Center (758-5929) within the first two weeks of the semester.

Assignments:

Each day in class homework problems will be suggested from the material covered. Students will be required to submit a subset of the assigned homework each week. Occasionally other types of homework will be assigned such as written projects. Students are encouraged to study with their fellow students; however all homework submitted for grading must be completed alone.

Tests:

The course will have two in-class exams. The tentative dates of the exams are Friday, February 16 and Monday, April 2. You must contact me by January 31 if you will have any conflicts with these dates. Otherwise, you may miss the exams only in the case of serious illness or emergency. The course will have a final exam at 2:00pm on Friday, May 4.

Evaluation:

There are 4 components of your final grade:

1. The homework assignments taken together will be worth 30% of your grade.
2. The two midterm exams will be worth 15% of your final grade each.
3. The cumulative final exam will be worth 30% of your grade.
4. Your class participation will be worth 10% of your grade.

No late assignments will be accepted, and makeup exams will not be given. Should you be forced to miss an assignment or exam due to a legitimate excuse, it will not count toward your grade. This will have the effect of making your other assignments worth more.