MAT 239 (Differential Equations) Syllabus
Spring 2007
Section 1 (Class Number 3520)
MWF 9:10-10:00 in Adel Math Building (AMB) 224

Instructor Information

Instructor: Jim.Swift@NAU.edu AMB 110 523-6878 www.nau.edu/Jim.Swift

Office Hours: MWF 10:15 - 11:15 and MW 2:30 - 3:30. If these times are inconvenient, you can make an appointment, or drop by my office. E-mail is always a good way to contact me. I will check my e-mail after 10:00pm on nights before a WeBWorK assignment is due, and reply that night.

Websites: Go to my home page (www.nau.edu/Jim.Swift) and follow the “Teaching” link. That link takes you to the instructor information page, where there is a link to the web site for this class, as well as a link to official U.S. time, http://www.time.gov, that our class will observe.

Course Description


Prerequisite: A grade of C or better in MAT 238 or current registration in MAT 238. You are responsible for making sure that you have met this prerequisite.

Content: Solutions of first-order differential equations, second and higher order linear equations, systems of linear differential equations, series solutions (chapters 1-5 and 7, with some skipped sections). As time permits, we may cover topics from numerical methods and nonlinear differential equations (chapters 8 and 9). The class website has a tentative schedule showing what sections we cover.

Basis of Evaluation

Points: There will be approximately 750 possible “class points.” All class points are assigned with the scale A (90%), B (80%), C (70%), and D (60%).

Midterms: (3 × 100 = 300 class points) There will be 3 midterm exams. Each exam will have a raw score and a “curved” or scaled score based on 100 possible class points. In fairness to those with classes before or after ours, the exam will start and end on time.

Homework: (10 class points each, approximately 20 assignments) We will be using WeBWorK for most of the homework assignments. Each of WeBWorK assignments is worth 10 class points. I may occasionally have quizzes or short assignments for you to turn in on paper. The point value of the paper assignments will be announced when they are assigned.

Final Exam: (250 class points) The Final Exam will be comprehensive. The final exam is scheduled for Wednesday, May 9 from 7:30 to 9:30. I reserve the right to raise your course grade from the 90/80/70 curve, based on an exceptional final exam.
Extra Credit: At each midterm exam I will give you 3 points if you had no unexcused absences since the previous exam. Any points that you get for the math department’s “Problem of the Week” will be credited to this class.

Course Policies

Calculators: A graphing calculator will be allowed at the exams. Please bring your calculator to class. (You don’t need to bring your textbook to class.)

Delayed WebWorK: I can delay your personal due-date for a WeBWorK assignment. For each student, I will delay up to three assignments by 24 hours provided the request comes in time for me to delay the due date before the assignment is due and the answers become available.

Missed Class Days: I will allow excused absences, for extra credit purposes, for institutional excuses, illness, or other reasons that I approve. However, you must notify me of an absence by e-mail before class. Furthermore, if you are late and I take roll before you arrive, then you will be counted absent.

University and Departmental Policies: A separate sheet of University and Departmental Policies is available on the web site.

Amendments: Any changes to this syllabus will be announced in class, and an updated version will be posted on my website.