

Syllabus: Math 11 Introduction to the Calculus (Fall 2009)

Section 04

Meetings: MWF 1-1:50 PM, Tues 9-9:50 AM, Seeley Mudd 204

CONTACT INFORMATION

Professor: Shu-Min Liao

Office: 501 Seeley Mudd

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Office Hours: Mon & Fri 3-4 PM; Wed 2-3 PM; or by appointment

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(Please feel free to email me directly. Email is definitely the best way to leave me messages after class. In addition, please do not hesitate to come to my office hours ~ don't be shy! I enjoy talking to students, and find conversations and discussions during office hours very beneficial and helpful to both you and me. In case that you can't make it to my scheduled office hours given above, send me an email or talk to me after class; I will find other times for you.)

TEXTBOOK

James Stewart. SINGLE VARIABLE CALCULUS, 6th edition. Brooks/Cole 2007,
Special Amherst College Version: Chapters 1-7. Available at Amherst Books.

(If you plan to take Math 12 as well, you might want to buy the larger SINGLE VARIABLE CALCULUS, 6th edition. Brooks/Cole 2007, which has chapters 1-12, instead of buying both halves separately. You may want to do a price comparison though.)

SUMMARY OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Regular homework assignments, three midterm exams, and a comprehensive final exam are required. Weekly agendas, including textbook reading and homework problem sets, will be provided in advance. You are expected to at least skim the relevant sections before class.

| Item | Percentage |
|---------------|--|
| Effort | 5% |
| Homework | 15% |
| Midterm Exams | 50% (lowest is 10%; other two are 20% each.) |
| Final Exam | 30% |

BONUS questions TBA in class (likely, but no guarantees.)

Note: If your percentage score on the final exam is better than the weighted average of your three midterms, then your lowest midterm score will be replaced by your final exam percentage score.

I reserve the right to curve (or not) the final course grades. This curve will never decrease your score. I also reserve the right to adjust the final grade of any student based on his/her overall *class performance* besides the grading items above. This adjustment can be either up or down.

LIKELY EXAM DATES (tentative, subject to change)

Midterm 1: October 9, Friday, in class.

Midterm 2: November 6, Friday, in class.

Midterm 3: December 11, Friday, in class.

Final Exam: TBA. (It will be scheduled later by the Registrar; comprehensive; 3 hours.)

Additional Help: If you feel you need several hours of help a week, you might want to check out the QCenter in 202 Merrill Science. See <http://www3.amherst.edu/qcenter/> for more details.

SOME DETAILS ABOUT COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Homework

Weekly-based homework will consist of (mostly) exercises from the text, and (likely sometimes) written problems. Please **staple** your work and write your name on each sheet you turn in. Homework is due to me at the **beginning** of class on the due date. It will be downgraded by 10% for being more than a few minutes late, plus an extra 10% off if it is not handed in by the end of class. It will then be marked down 20% more for each weekday late. Weekdays end at 5pm, so homework due Tuesday but handed in at 5:01pm Tuesday counts as being received Tuesday, making it a day late and marked down 40%. The lowest two scores will be dropped.

Start working on each homework assignment as soon as possible. Don't wait until the last minute, as some of the problems may turn out to be more challenging than you expected. You are free to ask for an extension on an assignment. As long as you request the extension **in advance** (at least 24 hours before it's due) and only do so **infrequently**, I'll usually be happy to grant an extra day or two with no penalty. Make sure that you read **Intellectual Responsibility** below.

Exams

Three midterm exams and one final exam will be administered. Three midterms, written by me, will be given in class on the schedule dates. The final will be written by the Department and it will be comprehensive. Unless I tell you differently beforehand, **NO CLACULATORS**, books, notes, or cheat sheets are allowed. Make sure that you read **Intellectual Responsibility** below.

There are **NO** excuses for missing an exam apart from serious illness, religious conflict or the like. If you have such a conflict, let me know as soon as possible. Otherwise, a missing exam is graded a zero. You will not be able to negotiate any missed exams at the end of the semester.

Effort

"Effort" is a combination of class attendance, class participation and textbook reading. I have no plan to take formal attendance (unless it proves necessary), but the truth is that I know who comes and who doesn't. Being consistently late or absent would never be good for your learning and final grade. In addition, I encourage you to participate in class: answer my questions or ask me questions. If you are naturally shy and have never spoken up in any class, don't worry! Show me you are listening and you care about this course. Believe me; I know who are serious!

Reading the material **BEFORE & AFTER** class is very important. I strongly encourage you to read the sections before class and, again, do the corresponding homework problems as soon as we cover them. I should also mention that occasionally I may (or may not) give some extra-credit questions (as **pop quizzes** or **take-home**) in class. Welcome to take advantage of them!

Intellectual Responsibility: You are encouraged to discuss the homework and study together with others. However, what you turn in must be *your own* work! **If you get help from, or work together with other students, I require that you write a note of it on the front of your homework;** it could be as simple as "I, (your name), worked with (others students' names)." If anyone turns in an assignment without such a note and it appears to have been copied from someone else, *both* students will receive a grade of zero for that assignment. Working together means discussing the problems. Each student must work on *each* problem and write it up **in his/her own words**. Don't hand in a packet as the work of multiple people. As for exams: no talking, no passing signals, no outside help, etc. Both to avoid distracting your classmates and to prevent cheating, all cell phones, PDAs, iPods, laptops, etc. should be turned off and put out of sight. Keep in mind that plagiarism on an exam may require further disciplinary actions.

Again, let me help: Please let me know in person or by email ASAP if you would like to discuss any special needs or concerns such as family emergencies, severe academic difficulties, or religious observances on certain days, etc. Don't just hide them in your mind, or skip classes, until the moment I have no way to help you out.