

Information Sheet for Math 321 Fall 2009

Class Meets: MTRF 8 am in BH 103
Teacher: Branko Ćurgus
Office Hours: MTRF 10 am (or by appointment) in BH 178
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Text: *Differential Equations*, edition 2001, (**Warning:** This is an old edition.)
John C. Polking, Albert Bogges, David Arnold (ISBN 0-13-598137-9)
You can buy this book on-line for under \$10.

Material Covered: First-order equations and related applications (Chapters 2 and 3), second-order equations and harmonic motion (Chapter 4) and the Laplace transform (Chapter 5).

Exams: There will be three “mid-term” exams and a comprehensive final exam. The dates for the “mid-term” exams are Tuesday, October 13, Tuesday, November 3 and Tuesday, November 24. The final exam is scheduled for Monday, December 7, 2009 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

There will be no make-up exams. If you are unable to take an exam for a very serious reason verified in writing, please see me beforehand. This does not apply to the final exam which cannot be taken neither early nor late.

Homework: Daily homework will be assigned in class. It will not be collected.

Grading: Each exam and assignment will be graded by an integer between 0 and 100. The final grade will be calculated using the formula:

$$FG = \lceil 0.2 * E1 + 0.2 * E2 + 0.2 * E3 + 0.4 * FE \rceil .$$

where E1, E2, E3, FG, are grades for Exam 1, Exam 2, Exam 3 and the Final Exam. The letter grade will be determined according to the following table.

F : 0 - 49	D : 50 - 54	C- : 55 - 59	C : 60 - 64	C+ : 65 - 69
B- : 70 - 74	B : 75 - 79	B+ : 80 - 84	A- : 85 - 89	A : 90 - 100

About This Course: A differential equation is an equation in which the unknown quantity is a function and the equation involves one or more derivatives of this unknown function. Differential equations often appear as models of important real world problems. We shall study: • several methods of solving differential equations, • how to relate differential equations to real world problems, • how to understand differential equations in a geometric setting and • how to interpret and analyze solutions of differential equations.

How to succeed: Attend class regularly and do all the suggested homework problems. Read the book before class and before doing the problems. Make sure that you *fully understand* how to do each assigned problem correctly. Do not hesitate to ask a question whenever something is unclear. Keep organized notes of all your work. Go back and redo the problems that you found challenging. Talk to other students from this class or other math classes, visit Math Center in BH 211A, stop by my office during the office hours or make an appointment. There are plenty of resources. Use them!