

Syllabus
Math 280 - Applied Differential Equations
Fall 2007

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Differential Equations: Differential equations are all over the place in engineering and the physical sciences. Here we will learn how to solve some of the most common ones. We will follow a set of notes that I made last year. There's no official book for the class, but you should try to find a textbook anyway such as one of the popular ones by Boyce and DiPrima or Zill.

Grades: You are guaranteed at least the following grades for the corresponding percentages,

- $\geq 90\%$ -A
- $\geq 80\%$ -B
- $\geq 70\%$ -C,

when computed from the following:

- 3 Exams: 20% for your highest two, 15% for the lowest.
- Homework and Quizzes: 15%
- Final: 30%

These may or may not be adjusted in the future, depending on how things go. However if the above setup gives you the best grade, then you are free to stick with it.

+ **and -**: I do give them. Note that for instance a 90.00000 will always be an A, not an A-, while an 89.9999 could be anything from a B to an A.

Homework and Quizzes: There will be some homework that you have to turn in roughly every week. Also I might give some quizzes every once in a while. They will be announced in advance. The combined weight of all this is officially only 15%, but it could factor heavily in any decision I have to make on the final grade, so take it seriously. For instance, I reserve the right to give a B in the case of an 89.5 average but a very low homework score.

Exams: There will be three midterm exams. I have no set schedule for when they will occur, but I'll tell you at least a week in advance. This is one of several reasons that it is essential to come to class every day.

Calculators on exams: You can use any hand-held calculator without a full alpha-numeric keyboard. TI-83's, 85's, and 86's are okay. TI-89's, 92's, or the equivalent HP's are banned. Using them on a test will be considered cheating.

Make up exams: I usually don't give them. Tell me in advance about any problems and maybe we can work something out. Advance means at least a week before the exam, not the day before.

Last day to drop: This is important. The last day to withdraw is **September 20**. After this date, I DO NOT HAVE THE POWER to give you a W, EVEN IF YOU HAVE A VERY GOOD REASON! CSUN is very strict about this. Also, I rarely give incompletes, and to get one you need to be CLEARLY passing... as in making a B or better.

Cheating: This is covered in Appendix C of the Student Catalog. Please do not do it.