

**MATH 2403 N1/N2/N3**  
**SPRING 2010**  
**COURSE POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS**

1. COURSE INFORMATION

Course	MATH 2403 N1/N2/N3: Differential Equations
Lecture	Allen K. Hoffmeyer ( <a href="mailto:ahoff@math.gatech.edu">ahoff@math.gatech.edu</a> )
Time/Location	MWF 9:05–9:55 am in Howey L3
Office Hours	M 10:05–11:35 am and by appointment
Office	Skiles 251
Website	<a href="http://www.math.gatech.edu/~ahoff">http://www.math.gatech.edu/~ahoff</a>
TAs	Ruidong Wang (N1), Alex Young (N2), Jackie Rand (N3)
Recitation Time	TR 9:05–9:55 am
Location	Skiles 202 (N1), Skiles 240 (N2), Skiles 243 (N3)
Required Text	Brannan & Boyce, <i>Differential Equations: An Introduction to Modern Methods &amp; Applications</i> , 1st edition

You are welcome to drop by my office any time to see if I am available to answer your questions. Office hours are *your time*, however, so I strongly encourage you to make use of them.

2. GRADING

Your grade in this course will be based on three categories of work: quizzes, tests, and the final exam. These categories and their approximate weighting are described below.

- (1) Quizzes will be given at almost every recitation and pop quizzes will be given randomly during lectures at the instructor's discretion. Your lowest three (3) quiz grades will be dropped. There are *NO* make-up quizzes and *NO* excused absences for quizzes. The three dropped quiz grades are meant to account for unexpected absences from class. If you miss a quiz because you showed up late to recitation or lecture, then you will not be allowed to make up the missed work. Also, recitation quizzes will only be counted if you are there for the entire recitation. If you must leave early, then you must let your TA know *before* the recitation starts. Quizzes will count for a total of 13 % of your final grade.
- (2) There will be *three* exams given in class on the following dates: February 11th, March 18th, and April 22nd. These test dates are firmly set. Each test will count for 19 % of your final grade.
- (3) The final exam will be held (tentatively) on Monday, May 3rd from 8:00am - 10:50am in our normal lecture room. It will be comprehensive and will count for 30 % percent of your final grade.

Reiterating, grades in this course will be determined using the following components, weighted as indicated below:

Quizzes	13%
Test I (11 Feb 10)	19%
Test II (18 Mar 10)	19%
Test III (22 Apr 10)	19%
Final Exam (03 May 10)	30%

The final grades will be determined by the standard 90%,80%,70%,60% cutoff (although I may adjust the cutoffs downward at the end of the semester, depending on class distribution). Final grades in this course, however, will be determined by the judgment of the instructor.

**Absences and Make-ups.** Attendance to lecture is vital for your success in this class. Therefore, attendance to every lecture is mandatory. Make-up quizzes and tests are *not* given under *any* circumstances.

Any student with a valid reason for missing a test must obtain permission from the Instructor (*NOT the TA*) well in advance of the test date. If you have an emergency on a test day, then you must have verifiable documentation that your absence is valid. The validity of your absence excuse will be completely determined by the instructor's discretion (e.g. waking up late, being out of town, etc. will not be excused). In the case that an exam absence is excused, your final exam score will replace your missed exam score. Please let the instructor know of any conflicts **immediately**. Note that our final exam is on Monday of finals week. No student will be allowed to take the final exam outside the scheduled time except as established by Georgia Tech policy on conflicting exams. I encourage you to look over your final exam schedule now and ask me if you have any questions about conflicts.

**Progress report grades.** Each semester, students in 1000- and 2000-level courses receive progress report grades prior to drop day. This semester, these progress report grades are due on 19 February 2010. At that point in the term, you will receive a grade of S or U. A grade of S indicates that you are making satisfactory progress, and that if you continue on the same path you are likely to earn a grade of C or higher. A grade of U indicates unsatisfactory progress in the course at that time (equivalent to a D or F). Be aware that these grades will be based on a small amount of information (roughly 6 quizzes and one exam). I encourage you to consult with me often during the semester to remain informed on your progress.

### 3. HOMEWORK

Homework will be assigned for each section of the text we cover and posted on the course web page. While it will not be collected for grading, it is *essential* that you work problems in order to learn the material in this course (quizzes will loosely be based on homework material). Mathematics is not a spectator sport! I encourage you to work as many problems as possible, whether they be additional textbook problems, problems from from other instructor's old tests, or other review problems that might be provided. If you have trouble with the homework problems, ask about them in recitation or lecture and make use of the office hours of the instructor or TAs. The only way to learn mathematics is by getting your hands dirty, and you will only accomplish that in this course by solving homework problems.

### 4. POLICIES

- (1) Timeliness is expected. Class starts at 9:05 am and ends at 9:55 am. Late arrivals and early departures are disruptive to the class and are to be avoided except in emergency situations. If you miss graded work in class because of a late arrival or an early departure, then you cannot make up the work and you'll receive a zero on the assignment.
- (2) Do not use your computer during lecture or recitation. There is no need to have a computer on during class, and any people ignoring this policy will be asked to turn off their computer; repeat offenders will be asked to leave (which will result in your quiz for that day not being accepted).
- (3) For all test problems submitted for grading, your final solution should be clearly marked, preferably by circling it or putting a box around it. You should show all your work, not just to receive partial credit in cases where your answer is not correct but also to support your answer and receive full credit when correct. **Correct answers that are not fully supported by work will generally not receive full credit.**
- (4) You are free to use any calculator or computer algebra system (*Mathematica*, *MATLAB*, *Maple*, etc.) on homework. Unless specified otherwise *in writing*, you may *not* use a calculator, computer, cellphone, personal digital assistant, or any other electronic or manual calculating device during a quiz or exam.
- (5) If you have questions about the grading of an exam, you must return it directly to the instructor (*NOT A TA*) in order to be reviewed. Please attach a separate piece of paper indicating the problem(s) you want regraded and the reasons you feel a regrade is appropriate. Regrade requests will only be accepted for one week after the assignments are handed back to the class (even if you

- weren't in class to receive them back). **Do not write anything on the test itself.** We reserve the right to retain photocopies of any and all exams prior to returning them to prevent regrade abuse.
- (6) You are encouraged to form study groups to work problems and enhance your understanding of the material; *however*, for exams and quizzes, unless otherwise specified *in writing*, you are to work completely alone. Furthermore, for exams you are to work without the aid of texts or notes.

## 5. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

As I hope you are aware by now, Georgia Tech takes academic integrity very seriously. I ask that you review the Honor Code at <http://www.honor.gatech.edu/>. For this course, I encourage you to make use of any old exams, quizzes, and homework from previous incarnations of this course. The more problems you work, the more successful you will be in this course. Be aware that the exams you will see in this course will not be identical to exams given by other instructors in previous semesters. However, the old tests on the School of Mathematics website should serve as a good example of the type of questions you might expect on the tests. I'll be sure to clearly communicate the list of topics that will be covered on each test as it approaches.

Cheating on exams and quizzes via any means is unethical and unacceptable. Unless specified *in writing*, you are to work completely alone on exams and quizzes; furthermore, for exams you are to work without the aid of notes or texts.

Behavior contrary to the above expectations will not be tolerated and will be handled via the appropriate channels. If you have questions regarding academic integrity policies in this course, talk to me. If you have other general academic integrity questions, you should consult with a member of the Honor Advisory Council, either during drop-in office hours (posted online at the address above) or by making an appointment through the Council's chair via email at [honor@gatech.edu](mailto:honor@gatech.edu).

At all times, in all things you do in this course, please keep the Georgia Tech Honor Challenge in mind:

*I commit to uphold the ideals of honor and integrity by refusing to betray the trust bestowed upon me as a member of the Georgia Tech community.*