

MATH 261 Spring 2017 Syllabus (CRN #10266), Apr. 3, 2017 Edition*

Prof. Zachariah Etienne

Class meets MWRF 9:30AM–10:20AM, Hodges Hall, Room 301

Instructor Contact Information

- zbetienne *`<at>`* mix.wvu.edu
- Office hours:
 - Armstrong Hall 409C
 - Monday and Friday 1:00–2:00PM, or by appointment

Course Website

- <http://math.wvu.edu/~zeticienne/>

Course Prerequisites

- A grade of C or better in Math 251.

Course Materials

- *Textbook*: Elementary Differential Equations and Boundary Value Problems (Tenth Edition) by W.E. Boyce and R.C. DiPrima.
- *Calculator*: Calculators will NOT be allowed on exams, and are discouraged in class.

MATH 261 Specific Learning Outcomes

- Ordinary differential equations (ODEs) are used to describe the dynamics of a wide variety of phenomena in many scientific and engineering contexts. Motivated by such a wide variety of applications, this course will provide necessary training for analyzing and solving ODEs, primarily of first and second order.
- Even if you do not foresee yourself working through course material in your career, remember that **Mathematics is the language of science and engineering, and solving mathematics problems instills the sort of logic and clear thinking necessary to succeed in STEM careers.** *This is why for most of you, 261 is a required course.*

Class Procedure for This Section

Each class will consist of two basic components: **In-Class Exercises** and the **Lecture**. The ordering of these components is at the instructor's discretion, and elements from Lecture may be interspersed before and/or after In-Class Exercises. During Lecture, the instructor will review the basic theory and procedure for completing the next homework assignment. In-Class Exercises will consist of activities in which students solve problems related to course material.

*Note that this syllabus is subject to revision, at the option of the instructor. If revised, the new syllabus will not become official until the instructor has distributed it to students over email.

Grading

Throughout this course, you will be graded not only on your ability to obtain the correct answer to a problem, but also on the strategy used to obtain and express your answer. **Therefore a correct answer without the supporting work will be given no credit.** When in doubt, show all of the steps!

Each student's final grade in this class will be divided as follows.

- 140 pts: Homework (Most assignments will be given via the online WileyPlus system, but some handwritten assignments will also be given. Scheduled quizzes may be given as well. Each handwritten assignment and scheduled quiz will be worth more points than a WileyPlus assignment. *Late handwritten homeworks will not be accepted, and no make-up quizzes will be given.*)
- 280 pts: Midterm Exams (Three will be given, the lowest Midterm Exam score will be dropped. Here is the tentative Midterm Exam schedule:

Midterm 1: 2/13/2017 (Monday)

Midterm 2: 3/20/2017 (Thursday)

Midterm 3: 4/13/2017 (Thursday)

- 200 pts: Comprehensive Final Exam, **2:00PM–4:00PM Tues. May 2, 2017**, usual class location (see http://registrar.wvu.edu/current_students/finals)

In the case that grades are curved or bonus credit is given, the maximum score will not exceed the point totals listed above. For example, if your homework score is 130 pts, and you earned 20 bonus points toward homework, your final homework score will be 140 pts. As an another example, if your two highest Midterm Exam scores after the curve summed to 300 pts, total final Midterm Exam score will be 280 pts.

Your letter grade for this course will be assigned as follows:

- **A:** 558 points or higher (90%+)
- **B:** 496–557 points (80–89.9%)
- **C:** 434–495 points (70–79.9%)
- **D:** 372–433 points (60–69.9%)
- **F:** 0–371 points (0–59.9%)

Testing Procedures and Policies

There will be three midterms and a comprehensive common final exam. **Calculators will not be permitted on any exam or the Final.**

Changes to midterm exam scheduling will be announced at least two class periods prior to an exam. Students who fail to take an exam due to missing the class in which the exam day change was announced or not receiving the exam date change email will take sole responsibility for not taking the test.

Exam Makeup Policy: There are no make-up exams. If you miss an exam, your grade will be recorded as a zero. Only students with valid university sanctioned event excuses will be given an opportunity to make up the missed exams. No exceptions will be made to this policy.

Help Outside the Classroom

There are several ways to seek help with MATH 261.

1. You may attend the office hours.
2. You may also stop by the Math Learning Center, 301 Armstrong, where you may receive FREE tutoring from the graduate teaching assistants and undergraduate math majors. Hours of operation are posted at the MLC. This is a great place to work on your homework alone or with classmates!
3. You are able to use the IML Computer Lab during open lab hours. These times will be listed on the course website. Tutors are often available in this location.
4. Tutoring is available in the University Learning Centers in the residence halls.
5. You may wish to hire a private tutor. Several graduate students are available for tutoring. A list of tutors is available in the Math Office, 320 Armstrong Hall.

Attendance Policy

This policy does not apply to exams. For exam make-up policy, see Exam Make-Up Policy above.

It is expected that you will show up to class, at least on exam and scheduled quiz days. To encourage class participation, **up to 5% in bonus credit toward verall score will be given to students for actively engaging in classroom activities.** Details will follow in class.

Academic Dishonesty

The integrity of the classes offered by any academic institution solidifies the foundation of its mission and cannot be sacrificed to expediency, ignorance, or blatant fraud. Therefore, I will enforce rigorous standards of academic integrity in all aspects and assignments of this course. For the detailed policy of West Virginia University regarding the definitions of acts considered to fall under academic dishonesty and possible ensuing sanctions, please see the Campus Student Code. This Code may be found linked from the Office of Student Conduct web page: http://campuslife.wvu.edu/office_of_student_conduct. Should you have any questions about possibly improper research citations or references, or any other activity that may be interpreted as an attempt at academic dishonesty, please see me [the instructor] before the assignment is due to discuss the matter.

Inclusivity Statement & Accommodations

“The West Virginia University community is committed to creating and fostering a positive learning and working environment based on open communication, mutual respect, and inclusion. If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please advise me [the instructor] and make appropriate arrangements with the Office of Accessibility Services (304-293-6700). For more information on West Virginia University’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives, please see <http://diversity.wvu.edu>.”

Students requesting special accommodations are required to inform the instructor at least 48 hours in advance of a test.

Electronic Device Policy

During lectures and exams, **cellular phones** and other electronic devices (including but not limited to tablet computers, laptops, PDAs, MP3 players, Blackberrys) are not permitted, except with the consent of the instructor. All forbidden devices must be turned off before the beginning of the class period and placed out of sight (for example, in a backpack or handbag) until the class has concluded.

Hand-held scientific calculators (**not cellular phones**) are discouraged, but not disallowed during non-exam days. No calculators or aforementioned electronic devices are allowed during exams.

A student’s first violation of this policy **on non-exam days** will result in a verbal warning (one verbal warning per semester), and each subsequent violation *even during the same lecture* will result in a 1% deduction in the student’s overall course grade. Violations of this policy **during exams** will result in a zero grade on the exam and possible expulsion from the course.

Intellectual Property Notice

All course materials, including lectures, class notes, quizzes, exams, handouts, presentations, and other materials provided to students for this course are protected intellectual property. As such, the unauthorized purchase or sale of these materials may result in disciplinary sanctions under the Campus Student Code.