

Math Excel
for MATH 107
Section 155, spring 2008

Time: Wednesdays and Fridays, 8:30–10:20 a.m.

Location: Avery Hall 109

Web page: <http://www.math.unl.edu/~s-bkell1/198-2008s/>

Instructor: Brian Kell

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(that's s-, followed by bkell for Brian Kell, followed by the digit 1)

Mailbox: 85 (Avery Hall 203)

Office hours: Tuesday, 1:30–2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Thursday, 4:00–5:00 p.m.

Friday, 10:30–11:30 a.m.

If you need to meet at a different time, please e-mail me or call to set up an appointment.

Welcome to Math Excel!

Math Excel is an opportunity for you to work with other students with the goal of really understanding calculus. Math Excel will also help you to improve your ability to communicate ideas, and hopefully will show you some of the beauty and fascination of mathematics.

We will explore calculus in a way that is not possible with the traditional format of calculus recitations. Rather than meeting twice a week for 50 minutes, we will meet twice a week for an hour and 50 minutes. You will receive an additional credit hour in recognition of this extra commitment, and you will receive two grades for calculus this semester: your normal calculus grade (MATH 107) and a Math Excel grade (MATH 198). The grade for MATH 198 is a simple Pass/No Pass grade.

Like other calculus students, you will attend the calculus lectures by Dr. Foss, and you will take the same exams and quizzes and do the standard homework and project. In addition to all of this, however, we will be working in groups on worksheets in Math Excel. These worksheets will be filled with interesting problems that will challenge you to apply the concepts covered in the lecture.

Since Math Excel takes the place of a normal calculus recitation, we will spend the first 15 minutes or so each day answering specific questions about the homework that was assigned in the lecture or about the lecture itself. If you have questions that cannot be answered in this admittedly very short period of time, please come see me during my office hours (listed above) or use the other resources available to you (see the last section on the back of this sheet).

Calculus does not have to be a difficult subject, but to do well, you will need to put in a lot of work outside of class. This calculus course will move quickly and will cover many things you have not seen before. It is very important to keep up with the class by reading the appropriate sections from the textbook before each lecture and working the given homework problems after each lecture. You should aim to put in at least ten hours of study each week outside of class. The problems on the Math Excel worksheets will be very difficult if you have not worked the homework in advance.

You will pass Math Excel if you come to class on time every day, work well with your group, and contribute to your own and others' understanding of calculus.

You are expected to be honest. Cheating in this course will not be tolerated. All work in this course must be completed in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct found in the 2007–2008 Undergraduate Bulletin, available online at <http://www.unl.edu/unlpub/undergrad/>.

Attendance

The focus of Math Excel is group work. It is this interaction that sets Math Excel apart from the other calculus recitations. Therefore, it is very important that you attend every class. You are allowed three unexcused absences over the course of the semester, but if you go over this limit you will receive a grade of “No Pass” for Math Excel (that is, MATH 198). Please understand that this grade is entirely separate from the grade you receive for MATH 107.

If you know that you are going to miss a class, please let me know ahead of time, unless this is impossible. Absences may be excused under exceptional circumstances.

Just as it is important that you attend every class, it is also important that you arrive on time. Coming in late is disruptive and disrespectful to me and your fellow classmates. If you arrive between 1 and 20 minutes late, you will be charged with a half absence; coming in more than 20 minutes late will be counted as a full absence.

Homework and quizzes

There will be some graded homework assignments, about one per week. Each assignment will have two problems graded in detail for four points each, with another two points given for meaningful work submitted for the other problems. Therefore each homework assignment is worth 10 points.

Quizzes will be given occasionally. No cell phones or other devices with wireless capabilities will be allowed during quizzes.

Homework and quizzes count toward your MATH 107 grade, not your MATH 198 grade.

Exams

There will be three 50-minute exams, which will be given in the last 50 minutes of the scheduled Math Excel time (i.e., from 9:30 to 10:20). You may use a calculator on the exams, but you may not use any notes. No cell phones or other devices with wireless capabilities will be allowed during exams.

Exams count toward your MATH 107 grade, not your MATH 198 grade.

Resources

In this room are many excellent resources for you: the other students. Working with other students will help you and help the others.

I am also very happy to help you. As a Math Excel instructor, my goal—my job—is to see you excel in math! Because time is limited, it will be difficult or impossible to answer all of your questions during Math Excel itself. Please see me during my office hours if you have unanswered questions or if you just would like to talk in greater detail about a topic we have covered. The best way to contact me is by e-mail, but you are welcome to stop by my office at any time. Of course, I cannot guarantee I will be available outside my office hours unless you have made an appointment.

The Math Resource Center in Avery Hall 13B is open on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 12:30 to 8:30 p.m.; on Fridays from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.; and on Sundays from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. You are encouraged to visit the MRC if you have questions related to this course, or as a place to meet with your classmates outside of the scheduled Math Excel time.

Please make sure that your Blackboard account is active and that you are enrolled in the class (you need to be registered for the MATH 107 lecture, the MATH 107 recitation, *and* MATH 198). You will not receive a grade for this class if you are not enrolled!