CLASS INFORMATION AND POLICY

COURSE: Differential Equations, Math221/821 Sec 4, Fall 2004
TEXT: *Differential Equations: A Modeling Approach*, G. Ledder, 1st ed., McGraw Hill (2004).
TIME: 12:30—1:45 pm T R
ROOM: 111 Avery Hall
INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Bo Deng
OFFICE: 318 Avery Hall
OFFICE PHONE: 472-7219(No messages)
E-MAIL ADDRESS: bdeng@math.unl.edu
OFFICE HOURS: 11:30—12:20 pm M W F(subject to change) or by appointment

Attendance: A semester total of 4 absence from class will result in a half letter grade deduction. A semester total of 7 class absence will result in a full letter grade deduction. A perfect attendance receives 10 points bonus.

Quiz: Quiz every Tuesday on homework type problems. All quizzes together count 100 points towards your semester total.

Exams: There will be three hour exams plus the final exam. The hour exams will consist of both routine problems similar to your homework assignment and problems which may require some thought. The final exam will be mostly comprehensive. Each hour exam counts 100 points towards your semester total. The final exam counts 200 points.

Take-Home Project: There will be probably one take-home project this semester subject to change. It may require some mathlab works. You (or you group if it is a group project) must work independently. Shared materials in any form with others will not be accepted. Late projects will not be accepted without approval in advance. The project counts 25 points towards semester total.

Grade: Throughout the semester you must accumulate your points from the quizzes, projects, hour exams, and the final exam against a grand total of at least 625 points. The standard letter grade will be assigned to your course grade based on your point percentage against the grand total.

A Few Suggestions: Success in any mathematics course requires a tendency to perfectionism. Every step of the way, strict attention to the smallest detail is absolutely necessary. If you can learn to acquire the trait of perfectionism for certain courses, you will succeed much more easily in mathematics. If you are good at learning mathematics you are probably also good at learning other subjects as well.

It is important for you to work out the homework problems as much independently as possible. Try to reason through problems even though there are formulas or algorithms ready to use. This reasoning process is the essential part of the mathematical thought process. You should also do your homework in a timely fashion. Like most math courses, the material is very cumulative and therefore is easy to get behind. Time can be your friend as much as your foe.

Always read ahead. I will plan class activities assuming you have done the reading. As you read the text, concentrate on the general development first. Details of calculus and algebra are generally left to the reader; and eventually the reader should confirm all calculations. As a general rule, one should consider a pencil and scratch paper as essential equipment for reading mathematics.

Should you have any questions, speak up in class, seek individual help from me.

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