

DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS SYLLABUS, FALL 2016

Course Webpage. www.math.wustl.edu/~yasha/teaching/2018spring/mathforphysicalsci/.

Course Staff.

- Instructor: Yasha Berchenko-Kogan
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- Grader: Soumya Sinha Babu
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- Associate director of undergraduate studies: Blake Thornton
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Textbook.

- The textbook is *Mathematical Methods in the Physical Sciences* by Boas.
- It's a good idea to read the textbook. If you're having trouble following the lectures, it'll get better if you read the textbook before lecture.

Exams.

- There will be two in-class midterms, tentatively scheduled for February 21 and April 4.
- The final will be on May 3, 6pm to 8pm.
- Exam attendance is mandatory unless excused by the associate director of undergraduate studies.
- No calculators or other resources will be allowed during the exams.
- If there are issues with the grading of the exams, please contact me.

Homework.

- There will be weekly homework assignments due in class on Fridays.
- During the semester you may request up to three 24-hour extensions by emailing the grader in advance.
- If there are issues with the grading of the written homework, please contact the grader. Contact me if you and the grader are unable to resolve the dispute.

Collaboration. To succeed on the homework, you should work together with your peers. However, there is a limit to how much collaboration is acceptable. Here are some general guidelines:

- While you should discuss the problems with others, you should write up your solutions on your own.
- If you get a good grade on a homework problem, you should also be able to do well on a pop quiz with that problem on it.
- You should not look at another student's written solution to a problem, but you are welcome to ask them about the general techniques they used to solve it.
- It's possible to get around the letter of this policy while violating its spirit, for example, by reading your written solution aloud to other students instead of showing it to them. Needless to say, that's also unacceptable.

Office Hours.

- Apart from exams, office hours are your only opportunity to get personalized feedback from me on your techniques.
- It's a good idea to go to office hours occasionally regardless of how you're doing in the course.
- My office hours are listed on the calendar on the course webpage.

Grading.

- I will combine grades with the following weights:
 - 20% homework,
 - 40% midterms, 20% each, and
 - 40% final.
- I will assign grades by taking the unrounded combined grade G and using the following scale:
 - A: $90 \leq G$.
 - A-: $85 \leq G < 90$.
 - B+: $80 \leq G < 85$.
 - B: $75 \leq G < 80$.
 - B-: $70 \leq G < 75$.
 - C+: $65 \leq G < 70$.
 - C: $60 \leq G < 65$.
 - C-: $55 \leq G < 60$.
 - D: $50 \leq G < 55$.
 - F: $G < 50$.
- If the median score on a midterm or final is below 75%, then I will add the difference to each student's score so that the median is 75%.
- Your grades will be available on Blackboard at bb.wustl.edu.