

Math 2A, section 3Z
CRN 31946

Differential Equations

Winter 2021

Instructor: Rick Taylor (Roderic Taylor)

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Classes: Classes will be held online 8:30 am – 9:20 am Monday through Friday. Classes will be recorded and can be watched online later.

WebAssign: WebAssign is required for this class, and some homework, quizzes, and exams may make use of it. De Anza has an agreement with WebAssign to get it at a discount. WebAssign includes an e-version of the textbook.

Text: A First Course in Differential Equations with Modelling Applications, 11th edition, by Zill, published by Cengage Learning.

Calculator: A scientific calculator with trigonometric and exponential functions or a graphing calculator is required for this class. While they can be used for study and homework, calculators such as the TI-95 that do symbolic calculation are not allowed.

Quizzes and take-home problem sets:

Miscellaneous quizzes, assignments, and discussion group material will contribute to 40% of your overall grade. At least two of the lowest such assignments will be dropped.

Midterm Exams:

There will be three midterm exams for this course which will be announced at least a week in advance. Each midterm will contribute 15% towards your grade. If your lowest midterm score is lower than your final exam score, that midterm score will be dropped. This includes midterms that are missed due to circumstances beyond your control. Make up exams are not given for missing midterms. Under extreme circumstances, if a second midterm is missed for a well-documented reason, the final exam score may replace it.

Final Exam:

The final exam will normally contribute 30% towards your final grade. However, if your final exam score is lower than all of your midterm scores, it will count 15% towards your final grade. Taking the final exam is required to pass this class. It will be given on Wednesday, March 24, 7:00 am – 9:00 am (or online on that day). By registering for this class, you are saying that you are able to take the final exam at this date and time. If due to unforeseen circumstances such as illness or family emergency you are unable to take the final exam at the scheduled time and date, please contact me as soon as possible. In such circumstances, you will need to take an incomplete for the class and arrange a time to make it up.

Grade:

The final grade is determined by the weighted average of quizzes, midterms, and finals as described above.

- A 92% - 100%
- A- 89% - 92%
- B+ 86% - 89%
- B 82% - 86%
- B- 79% - 82%
- C+ 70% - 79%
- C 60% - 70%
- D 40% - 60%
- F 0% - 40%

An F will also be given in the case one gets a 0 on the final exam.

Honors:

If you are taking the honors version of this class, you will be expected to do extra work, either proposing and carrying out an independent project, or viewing supplemental lecture material and doing extra problems I assign. Failure to do this work will result in lowering the grade for the course by one level (for example from A to A-, or A- to B+).

Policy on dropping:

I am required to drop students who do not take at least one quiz during the first week of class. After that, if you decide you no longer wish to take this class it is your responsibility to go online and formally drop the class by the appropriate deadline. If you fail to do so, I will be unable to drop you at a later date.

Policy on Academic Integrity:

If a student is found to have cheated on an exam, they will receive a 0 for that exam. They will not be able to drop that score from their average as they normally might when computing the final grade

Academic Help:

Mathematics is a challenging subject which takes time and effort to master. Of course students differ in their backgrounds, but in general you should expect to do a minimum of 10 hours of work per week reading the book, doing homework, and thinking about the material. This is in addition to the time you spend in class. If you find you are having difficulty with the material, it is important to address the situation immediately, as it's easy to fall behind. The tutorial center is available online for brief questions, as well as one on one sessions with a designated tutor. In addition, I encourage all students to come to my office hours listed above. Often, I'm able to help students talking with them individually in a way that's not possible in a large lecture class.

Student Learning Outcome(s):

- *Construct and evaluate differential equation models to solve application problems.
- *Classify, solve and analyze differential equation problems by applying appropriate techniques and theory.