

Syllabus for M242

Spring 2012

Professor: Dr. Robert Decker

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Web Site: uhaweb.hartford.edu/rdecker

Office Hours:

Text: Differential Equations by Dr. Noonburg and Dr. Decker

Calculator: The TI-89 will be used in class, on quizzes and tests, and for one paper.

Software: Downloadable applets written by Dr. Decker will be made available from the above website, and will be incorporated into homework and paper assignments. You may also use them on tests and quizzes if you bring your own laptop to class.

Grading: Your grade will be based on 10% for homework (includes both webwork and possibly other assignments), 15% for quizzes, 15% apiece for 2 exams, 20% for one paper, and 25% for the final exam.

Webwork: Webwork is an internet based homework system. The link to it is on my website. You can have as many tries as you want to get the problems correct; the problems are graded by the computer.

Exams and Quizzes: You may bring a standard sheet of notebook paper with notes on both sides to quizzes and exams. Exams are full-period, and quizzes will be about 20 minutes. Check the syllabus for the dates of the exams and quizzes, as I may forget to announce them in class.

Papers: The paper will be a write-up of longer problems that will require some analysis of data or computer output. It will make use of the TI-89 calculator and some graphing applets, and each student will turn in their own paper. You will be graded on the quality of your writing, as well as the mathematical content. Include an introduction, a presentation of results with an explanation of what each graph or table represents, and a summary that ties together all of the ideas that you want to present to the reader of your paper. Don't write the paper for me; write it for a casual reader who is trying to learn something from your work. Use Microsoft Word and its built-in equation editor for math symbols (a free alternative is Open Office). You may discuss the subject matter of the papers with other students and with me, but **YOUR FINAL PAPER MUST BE YOUR OWN WORK.**

Homework: Homework (separate from webwork) will be assigned each day; at the beginning of each class period we will go over the previous assignment. Homework will

not be handed in except when specified. These are practice problems which will be similar to problems on tests and quizzes.

Help! If you need extra help, you have several options. First, if at all possible, come see me during my office hours. Next, the mathematics tutoring lab will open about the second week of classes, and is staffed by both faculty and students during most of the daytime hours, Monday through Friday, in Dana 208. No appointment is necessary. Finally, there is a tutoring program run by SGA in Gengras 120.

Course Outline:

<u>Week</u>	<u>Sections</u>
Jan 24, 26	1.1, 1.2, 2.1
Jan 31, Feb 2	2.2, Quiz 1 (Thurs), 2.3
Feb 7, 9	2.4, 2.6
Feb 14, 16	2.7, Review
Feb 21, 23	Exam I, 3.1, 3.2
Feb 28, March 1	3.3, 3.4
March 6, 8	3.5, 3.7
March 13, 15	3.8, Quiz II (Thurs), 4.1, 4.2
March 20, 22	Spring Break
March 27, 29	4.3, 4.4
April 3, 5	Review, Exam II
April 10, 12	5.1, 5.2
April 17, 19	5.3, Quiz III (Thurs), 6.1
April 24, 26	6.2, 6.3
May 1, 3	6.4, Review