Policies and Advice
Math 441: Differential Equations (Section D13)
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Attendance and class preparation - class attendance is expected. Attendance will not constitute part of your grade, but coming to lecture regularly increases your chances for success. Any material discussed in class may be tested in the exams (unless we say otherwise). Class time will be devoted to lecturing, discussion, and work on problems. *So, come to class prepared to concentrate, and to work actively.*

Cellphone policy - to promote interaction and concentration, **mobile phones are not to be used for any purpose in the classroom.** Put them away **before you enter** the room. Anyone with a mobile phone visible will be asked to put it away. Anyone actively using a mobile phone will be asked to leave the classroom for the remainder of the lesson. Tablets and laptops are permitted, provided they are used for class purposes.

Webassign homework - following most lectures, a WebAssign homework covering the lecture material will be posted online. You are responsible for checking for new Webassign homework, after each class. It will be due in 4-5 days time. You are free to discuss the homework with your classmates, but please try hard to understand the solution yourself. Extensions will not be granted. Make-up homeworks will not be given.

Written homework – will be posted weekly at the class website. You are welcome to discuss problems with other students, and to consult books, online resources, and so on. But you will learn the most if you try hard to solve each problem yourself. You must write your solutions yourself. Submitting homework that you did not write, or that you do not understand, is academic dishonesty.

General exam policies

• Travel and leisure plans, even for family events, are **never** a legitimate reason for missing an exam.
• Conflict exams will be approved only if you present written evidence that you must miss an exam for a legitimate reason, such as a religious observance, university sports competition, family emergency, or illness.
• If your conflict can be predicted in advance then the evidence must be presented in advance, by following the procedure announced on the course website.
• In case of religious observances, the official university form must be submitted. In case of illness, a note showing a visit to McKinley will generally suffice.
• Notes, books, calculators and other devices may not be used during exams.
• Do not look at anyone else's work during an exam, and do not communicate with any person about the exam, except with the proctors in case of queries. Any form of cheating or violation of exam rules will be dealt with swiftly and firmly under the provisions of the Student Code.

Advice for success in the class
- Come to the Collaborative Homework Sessions (date and time TBD).
- Come to the Office Hour (date and time TBD).
- Come to class prepared: re-work your lecture notes before each last class, to check every step and fill in missing calculations. Work through the proofs and examples on paper.
- Read the textbook after you re-work the notes - the text helps you see the big picture.
- Ask questions early and often, about steps you don't understand.
- Start the HW early, and get help on any problems you can't solve. Don't do the HW by plugging problems into some website (since you won't learn the material). Ask about HW questions on Piazza.

- When preparing for exams, summarize the important concepts and methods.
- Learn the definitions (they tell you what the words mean). Then work some problems.
- After reading a theorem or algorithm, try to summarize the important concepts. This creates a mental framework for the problems you work on.
- Debrief thoroughly on each exam as soon as you get it back. Learn from mistakes.

If you work **actively** on the material with a pen in hand and scrap paper in front of you, and if you summarize **how** to solve problems and write down **questions** to yourself about what you do not understand, then you are likely to succeed in the course. And we are here to help – good luck!