

Math 4245, CRN 97478; Fall, 2009

Course Description and Grading Policy

Instructor: David L. Russell
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Web Site: <http://www.math.vt.edu/people/russell>
Class Meets: TR, 2:00 - 3:15 p.m., Rm. 240 McBryde Hall.

Instructor Availability The instructor will normally lecture for one hour and reserve some time at the end of each class period for individual questions. The instructor will be available in his McBryde office Wednesday afternoons from 3:30 to 4:30 pm; other times by individual appointment.

Text; Notes Text: Boyce and DiPrima: *Elementary Differential Equations and Boundary Value Problems*, 9th Ed., John Wiley & Sons, Inc., Pub., ISBN 978-0-470-38334-6. This text ranks equally with the instructor's classroom notes, posted regularly on this web site, in determining course content.

Suggested Exercises; Notebook Along with the instructor's notes, suggested exercises from the text will be posted weekly on the instructor's website. These will not be individually graded; answers to odd numbered exercises may be found in the text. Each student is to maintain a notebook, containing worked exercises and other course materials. The instructor may request to inspect these materials as part of his assessment of student progress in the course, particularly if special considerations of any kind are requested.

Basis for Grading The final grade will be based on the student's total point score from approximately 600 points available. These points will be allocated as follows:

Exams 1, 2, 3: 100 pts. each; 300 pts. total;
Weekly Quizzes (8): 25 pts. each; 200 pts. total;
Computer Projects (2): 50 pts. each; 100 pts. total.

Exams 1,2 and 3 will be non-cumulative, open book, take home exams and will be posted on this web site approximately five days before they are due (typically posted Thursday, due Monday). Weekly quizzes will be given in class, closed book, and will be graded by the instructor. Computer projects will assume the student knows, or is willing to learn, Matlab, Mathematica or ODE Architect as supplied with the text; other software (e.g., Excel) is acceptable if it can produce the results mandated on the project assignment.

Grading Schedule The following percentages of total point scores will be *sufficient* for the grade indicated. A: 91% to 100%; B: 81% to 90%; C: 71% to 80%; D: 61% to 70%. No passing grade will be assigned for an overall point total less than 50% (i.e., 300 points). The instructor reserves the right to assign a higher grade than indicated by this schedule if he deems it warranted. A curving process will be applied to the final point distribution for eligible students. In the past this process has normally resulted in grades somewhat better than indicated by the above schedule. To be eligible for this curving process all exams and projects must be completed and at least seven of the eight quizzes must be taken.