Math 4574, CRN 84598; Fall, 2015
Course Description and Grading Policy

Instructor: David L. Russell
Telephone: (540) 231 6171; E-mail (preferred!): russell@math.vt.edu
Web Site: http://www.math.vt.edu/people/russell
Office: 418 McBryde Hall
Class Meets: MWF, 11:15 am - 12:05 pm, G. Burke Johnston Student Ctr, Rm 100.

Class Period Usage, Instructor Availability: The instructor will normally lecture for 45 minutes and reserve some time at the end of each class period for individual questions and other non-lecture activities. He will be available in his McBryde 418 office Tuesday afternoons from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm; other times by individual appointment.


Suggested Exercises; Notebook Sets of suggested exercises from the text will be posted regularly on the instructor’s website. These will not be individually graded; answers to odd-numbered problems are given in the back of the text. Each student is to maintain a notebook, physical or electronic, containing worked exercises, downloaded notes and other course materials. The instructor may request to inspect this notebook.

Basis for Grading The final grade will be based on the student’s total point score from approximately 600 points available, distributed as follows:

- Three in-class exams: 100 points ea., 300 points total;
- In-class quizzes (5 or more): 150 pts. total;
- Two computer projects: 75 points ea., 150 points total.

The three exams and the quizzes are closed book except for possible take home components. However, students may prepare, for each exam or quiz, a crib sheet consisting of a single sheet of paper on which they may write anything they wish - both sides. Suggested exercises will be assigned; these will not be graded but should be worked in a notebook kept available for inspection. All graded work must be picked up by the student for full credit.

Exams and quizzes in class are closed book; may include take-home components. Crib sheet, calculator, OK; no use of computer software during in class exams or quizzes.

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%; 50% to 60% at the discretion of the instructor. 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; in the past this process has normally resulted in grades somewhat more generous than indicated by the above schedule.