MATH 2214: Introduction to Differential Equations
Fall 2015 Class Policy Sheet

INSTRUCTOR: SHELLEY RUSHING FARMER
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Office Hours: MWF, 11:10 am – 12:10 pm, McBryde 408
TR, 12:30 – 1:30 pm, McBryde 408
By appointment, as necessary


COURSE GOALS: The objectives in this class include understanding techniques and applications of ordinary differential equations. Topics include first-order equations, second- and higher-order linear equations, systems of first-order linear equations, and numerical methods.

GRADING: The following percentages will be used in grading:
10% Emporium Quizzes
10% Homework Assignments
60% Midterm Exams (3 @ 20% each)
20% Comprehensive Final Exam (10% MC, 10% FR)

POLICIES: A score of 90% will guarantee at least an A−, an 80% at least a B−, a 70% at least a C−, and a 60% at least a D−.

GRADING APPEALS: If you believe that an error has been made in grading an assignment or midterm exam, please re-examine the problem as well as the solution and contact me the next day. Any concern should be brought to my attention within one week of the graded work being returned. If you believe that an error has been made in tallying points on a graded assignment or midterm exam, you should bring it to my attention at the end of the class meeting during which the graded work was returned.

ATTENDANCE & COMMUNICATION: Attendance will be taken. Students are responsible for all announcements made in class. Students are also responsible for information delivered via Scholar or email.

EMPORIUM QUIZZES: There will be online quizzes, which are unproctored and can be taken anywhere. You must start a graded quiz by 11 pm on the day of the deadline. You will have one attempt at each quiz. Your lowest online quiz grade will be dropped.

HOMEWORK: Homework will be collected at the beginning of the last class meeting of most weeks. Each week’s suggested problems are listed with the syllabus. Homework that should be handed in each week will be posted on the Scholar calendar for this class. Homework will be checked for completeness (legitimate attempts must be made for each assigned problem; simply rewriting the problem and putting a question mark or inapplicable work beside it does not count as a legitimate attempt), work shown, and correctness. The maximum grade for each homework assignment is 10 points. Your lowest homework assignment grade will be dropped.

GRADING HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS:
0 points  More than 25% of assigned problems not legitimately attempted.
2 points  Solutions justified by explicit, applicable work on at least 75% of the assigned problems.
8 points  Awarded on a partial credit basis on one or more problems graded for correctness.

**MIDTERM EXAMS:** There will be 3 midterm exams. The midterm exams will be during our regularly scheduled class meeting days, times, and locations. **Midterm exams are tentatively scheduled for Tuesday September 29, Tuesday October 27, and Thursday December 3.** You must take exams on the specified date. In general, makeup exams will not be given. If a student misses an exam for reasons that are serious, unavoidable, and beyond the student’s control, the situation will be handled on an individual basis provided appropriate documentation is provided. If it is to your benefit, your grade on the final exam will replace your lowest test grade.

**FINAL EXAM:** There will be a comprehensive final exam **scheduled for Friday, December 11, 4:25 – 6:25 PM.** The final exam is a required class meeting that will not be rescheduled for discretionary reasons, including conflicts with work schedules, conflicts with classes and exams at other colleges, and travel plans.

**MISSED ASSIGNMENTS:**
If a student fails to hand in an assignment on time, his/her score is zero unless the reasons for the failure are serious, unavoidable, and beyond the student’s control. The instructor reserves the right to verify that the reasons are serious, unavoidable, and beyond the student’s control. It is to the student’s advantage to inform the instructor of such reasons before missing the work. When work is missed for such reasons, the instructor, after consultation with the student, will decide how to handle the missed work.

**HONOR SYSTEM:**
- The Virginia Tech Honor Code applies to all graded work in this course. Students are responsible for understanding and adhering to the Honor Code. Among other things the Honor Code prohibits giving or receiving unauthorized aid, assistance, or unfair advantage on academic work, and it prohibits plagiarism.
- You will be expected to pledge on all midterm exams and the final exam, that the work is your own.
- No calculator usage is allowed on the in-class assignments, midterm exams, and final exam.
- Handed-in homework may be discussed with other students as well as with the instructor. However, in writing up an assignment to be handed in, each student works alone (without other students or other students’ papers) and certifies that what is written accurately represents the student’s own understanding of the material expressed in the student’s own words. In working, or in preparing to work, homework problems, students may not consult partial or complete solutions of the problem that have been prepared by anyone else. The prohibited solutions include, but are not limited to, solutions by current or former teachers or students at VT or elsewhere as well as computer generated solutions, whether these solutions are posted on the web or available from other sources.
- Copying another group or individual's work is strictly prohibited.
- If you have any questions about how the honor code applies to a particular situation, it is your responsibility to ask.
- Classroom behavior affects the individual student and his/her fellow students. You are expected to respect your classmates and instructor. From Section V.E.-Class Attendance and Classroom Conduct of the Student Life Policy: The professor has the authority to determine acceptable classroom conduct for his or her students as long as those decisions do not infringe on the students' rights. Disruptive classroom conduct may be considered disorderly conduct; i.e., behavior that disturbs the peace, disrupts or interferes with the orderly functioning of the university, or interferes with the performance of the duties of university personnel. When considered in violation of this policy, you will be asked to leave the classroom.

Math Emporium & Tutoring: The staff in the tutoring lab at the Math Emporium will be able to assist you with your questions. Since this course is not an Emporium course, it is not appropriate to approach the floor staff in the general area with your questions about Math 2214. The tutoring lab is open 4:30pm to 9:30pm
Sunday through Thursday. Also, you may hire a private tutor by sending an email to math_tutors-g@vt.edu indicating your specific needs.

Disabilities: If you need adaptations or accommodations because of a documented disability, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible.