INTRODUCTION TO
FINANCIAL MATHEMATICS
MTH 457-001 SPRING 2007

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Course description: The goal of the course is to introduce the students to the modern mathematical concepts, techniques and methods used in finance. The course is intended for juniors and seniors interested in financial applications of mathematics. Financial mathematics is a practical subject. Therefore the course will concentrate not only on the theory but also on the numerical practice. The course is also one of the recommended course of the Actuarial Science Specialization program of the mathematics department. The course also helps to prepare for the new actuarial FM exam (starting in May 2007) and for the financial mathematics part of the actuarial exam M.


Prerequisites: Linear algebra MTH 309, ordinary differential equation MTH 235 or MTH340, some familiarity with probability STT 351 or STT 441. I will not assume that the students have prior knowledge of partial differential equations. No background in finance is required. All the necessary concepts, definitions and tools from partial differential equations, probability theory and finance will be explained in the course. Familiarity with the computer softwares Maple, Mathematica or Mathlab and Excel is helpful but not essential.
Class meetings: MWF 11:30AM–12:20PM Room C313, Wells Hall.

Textbook: The required textbook is
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Other very good books related to the course:
Some lectures will be based on materials from the recommended books.
Tentatively, we plan to cover the most important sections of Chapter 1 − 10 and Chapter 17 − 18 of the textbook and some additional materials.

Format: Lectures with some computer demonstrations.

Office hours: My office is at the Mathematics Department in the Wells Hall, Room D310. I have office hours on Mondays, and Wednesdays from 10:00 AM–11:00 AM, or by appointments.

Exams: There will be two midterm exams and a comprehensive third exam. The tentative dates for the exams are
   Exam 1               Monday, February 12;
   Exam 2               Monday, March 26;
No make-up exams will be given.
There will be a comprehensive "take home third exam" distributed on Wednesday, April 25. The deadline of the third exam will be 4:00PM, Friday, April 27. If you have any concerns about the third exam, you should let me know during the first two weeks of classes. No make-up final will be scheduled.

Homework: Recommended homework problems will be assigned during the semester mainly from the textbook. These problems will not be collected or graded. However, solving these problems is essential for the course. At each class you are expected to have done the homework problems related to the previous lecture. There will be regular, graded homework assignments with deadlines. Some of the homework assignments will be computational, requiring the use of computer softwares. There will be two or three projects during the course. The projects are usually broader in scope than a typical homework assignment. You are encouraged to work together on the homework problems, but your homework assignments and projects have to be independent works!

Grading policy: Your final grade for the course will be based upon the homework assignments and projects, classroom participation (30%), the mid-term exams (20% each) and the comprehensive third exam (30%). The total worth of the homework
assignments, projects, and classroom participation will be 75 points. Each midterm exam will be worth of 50 points. The comprehensive third exam will be worth of 75 points. If the final total of your points is in the range below then you are guaranteed the corresponding grade:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>225 − 250</td>
<td>4.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>200 − 224</td>
<td>3.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>150 − 199</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>125 − 149</td>
<td>2.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>100 − 124</td>
<td>2.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>75 − 99</td>
<td>1.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>50 − 74</td>
<td>1.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>0 − 49</td>
<td>0.0</td>
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The final grades may be higher than the scale above - if the situation warrants – but they will not be lower. More details will be provided in class.

**Important dates for Spring Semester 2006:**
Friday, January 12 - Close of computer/telephone enrollment. Last day to change to or from Credit/No credit or visitor grading options.
Monday, January 15 - Martin Luther King Day. Classes cancelled.
Friday, February 2 - Last day to drop a course and receive a 100% refund.
Wednesday, February 28 - MIDDLE OF SEMESTER. Last day to drop a course with no grade reported.
Monday, March 5 – Friday, March 9 - Spring Break
Friday, April 27 - Last day of classes.