Calculus 3 Honors  
Mth 254H, Fall 2015

MW 254H 11:30–12:20 room A224 Wells Hall Recitation Thursdays in G032 Hubbard 10:20-11:40  
Alexander Volberg  
Office: D314 WH  
ph.: 353 6884  
e-mail: volberg@math.msu.edu  
http://www.mth.msu.edu/~volberg  
Office hours: MWF 2-3PM, and by appointment.  
Text: J. Marsden, A. Weinstein Calculus III

Important Dates - Fall Semester, 2015  
Important dates for Fall 2015:  
Wednesday 08/24 Classes Begin. Students should go to scheduled Monday classes on the first day.  
Monday 09/07 Labor Day University closed  
Middle of Semester Wednesday, 10/21  
Thanksgiving Holiday/Fall Break Mon., 11/23 - Fri., 11/27  
Classes End Fri., Friday, 12/11  
Final Exams Mon., 12/14–Wed., 12/18  
Final exam: the date will be given later.

Homework: Homework will be assigned each lecture and discussed at the beginning of the next lecture. It will not be collected for grading purposes, but it is extremely important as quizzes’ questions will be exactly the homework problems. Exams’ problems will be also close to those of the homework. Note that you are not done with a problem just because you got the right answer. You are only done when you understand why the methods you used had to have worked. If all you are doing is blindly applying formulas and mimicking examples, get extra help. The problems should make sense to you. You should be able to solve the problem and similar ones with closed book and notes.

If you don’t work hard on these homeworks, you won’t know what’s going on in class and do poorly on the exams!

Collaboration: You can talk to each other about any of homework problems, but when you write up the problems to be handed in, you must work alone.  
Exams: There will be two exams during the term. The exams will be worth 75 points apiece. Each of these exams will cover the material since the previous exam. Each exams will be comprised of problems very close to those from homeworks and problems discussed in the class. Exams are closed book and closed notes. However, you will be permitted to makeup a 3-by-5 card with any formulas you wish and bring it to the exam. Make-ups will not be permitted except for a severe medical problem or dire family emergency. A written note from an appropriate person (doctor, father, mother etc.) is required. If at all possible, you should notify me before the missed exam.
Quizzes: There will be 10-12 quizzes given. The quizzes will be closed book, closed notes, and will consist of problems taken from the homeworks assigned since the previous quiz. Each quiz is worth 10 points. The two lowest quiz grades will be discarded. A missed quiz cannot be made up, but will instead count as your lowest grade.

Final: There will be a final on the week of Dec. 1 - Dec. 4.

Grading will be done according to the total number of points earned by each student. The points are accumulated from

- midterms 150 pts (2 exams)
- Quizzes 100 pts (10 of 12 quizzes)
- final 150

up to a total of 400. At the end of semester I will decide what score correspond to which grade. I will take into account the overall scores distribution (curve), and probably the results from other sections. However, I will not require a score more than 90 % (360pts) for the grade 4.0. The passing score (for 1.0) will be atleast 50 % (200 pts).

Questions: Mathematical questions are appreciated anytime during the class. If you ask a good question you get extra 2 points toward your exams.

Studying for tests: If you were an athlete preparing for a track meet, and you slacked off during the weeks before the meet, doing just what you needed so the coach wouldn’t get on your case, and then stayed up running the whole night before your meet, you’d loose. Yet this is just how many students prepare for their exams. The right way to study for a test, is to do your work at a steady pace throughout the semester. The point is, that while there are a few facts and formulas you’ll need to remember for a test, the way to do well is to think well. That is, you want your brain to be in top shape. You cannot achieve that by cramming. It is now known that as you learn the brain slowly rewires itself. As you study, you gradually get smarter. That is the whole point of college!

Come to class: Many college students treat class attendance as optional. This may be fine for some classes. However, for calculus you can get way behind very fast. I would not penalize you for non-attendance, but still you should come to class every period unless you are seriously ill. And remember: office hours are not a substitute for a missing class!

We have a lot of material to cover, so pace will be rapid. Don’t fall behind!