MTH 305 Syllabus and Homework Policy

Professor Contact Information

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Office Hours: (subject to change)
Tues: 3:30-4:30 pm, Wed: 2:00-3pm, Thurs: 4:30-5:30pm

I am also available other times by appointment.

Course Information

MTH 305 - Functions and Calculus for Elementary and Middle School Teachers — Spring 2014

Class Time: Tues, Thurs 1:00-2:20 PM; Location: Wells Hall A116
Course Website: `www.math.msu.edu/~mandi/SS14CalcMiddle.html`
Text: Calculus Connections: Mathematics for Middle School Teachers by Asma Harcharras and Dorina Mitrea

Course Objectives

In this class we will study topics from functions and calculus needed for understanding connections between topics of calculus and the mathematics taught in middle school.

By the end of the semester, I hope we will be able to solve new and interesting problems!

Required Course Materials

- textbook: Calculus Connections by Harcharras/Mitrea
- graphing calculator - TI83 (or equivalent) or higher
- notebook (whatever you are comfortable with) for class notes
- active participation and a positive attitude!

Attendence and Class Policy

Students are expected to attend every scheduled class and to be familiar with the attendance policy as it appears in the Academic Programs Catalog. It is the student's responsibility to keep informed of any announcements, syllabus adjustments or policy changes made during scheduled classes, by email, or through the class pages. Students are expected to behave with academic integrity, in accordance with the rules and guidelines set forth in Academic Freedom for Students at Michigan State University. The guiding principle of academic integrity is that a student's submitted work must be the student's own. University policies can be found at `http://splife.studentlife.msu.edu/academic-freedom-for-students-at-michigan-state-university`.

Out of respect for yourself and your fellow classmates, please be prompt to class and stay until class is over. All electronics must be turned off by the beginning of class. This means cell phones, computers, etc. Please come to class ready to work with your classmates and be involved in the learning process!

Your textbook and calculator will be helpful during most classes. It is also in your best interest to bring a notebook (or similar) for taking detailed notes during class.

Quizzes

[100 points] There will be quizzes throughout the semester, which will be announced in advance, either in class, by email, or on my website. If you miss a quiz, there will be no make-up quizzes. However, the lowest quiz score will be dropped before your final grade is calculated.

All answers should be written neatly, and you must **show all work**. This means you must clearly show each step in calculations, label all axes on all graphs, label limits, etc. Points will be deducted for solutions not following these guidelines.

Homework and Projects [200 points]

Homework is an essential part of this course. Math should be learned through practice, so one of your best tools for learning the material is through homework. Homework will be assigned regularly from the text, along with larger projects.

You are highly encouraged to work together - talking through problems with your classmates is a great way to solidify your understanding of the material. However, keep in mind that your solutions must be your own (except in the case of group assignments).

Participation and In-Class Assignments Active participation and engagement will be required in and extremely important in this course. In-class assignments will be assigned and count as part of your homework grade. These will usually be done in small groups. Note that an absence during an in-class assignment will result in a 0 on that assignment.

Regular Exams [200 points] There will be two regular exams, tentatively scheduled for [**Thursday, February 27 and Thursday, April 17.**] Each exam will be worth 100 points. The use of cell phones or any form of cheating will not be tolerated.

Missed Exam Policy In general, there will be no make-up exams in the course. However, in complex and unusual circumstances which are beyond your control, a make-up exam may be given on a case-by-case basis. This will require providing a detailed account of the situation and supporting documents. Approval in these cases is at the sole discretion of the instructor. In addition, if you have a verifiable conflict (e.g. for athletics, etc), you must let me know **before** you miss an exam so that we can work together to schedule a make-up.

Final Exam [200 points] The university has scheduled the final exam for **Wednesday, April 30 from 12:45-2:45 p.m.** The final may partially consist of a take-home component or project due at this time. Additional information will be discussed later in the semester.

Help You can get help from me during office hours and from the Mathematics Learning Center (MLC). Please take advantage of these resources, and do not be shy about asking me questions! You can get complete information about the MLC at `https://www1.math.msu.edu/mlc/`. Be sure you checkout the Neighborhoods link to find a satellite location close to you.

Grades The following grading scheme will be used to calculate the final grades:

Item	Number of Points
Homework and Projects	200
Quizzes	100
Exam 1	100
Exam 2	100
Final Exam	200

Use the following scale to convert each test score to a grade.

90–100%	85–89%	80–84%	73–79%	65–72%	60–64%	55–59%	0–54%
4.0	3.5	3.0	2.5	2.0	1.5	1.0	0.0

With the final exam, the total points possible is 700. Your grade will be based on your total points using a scale which results in grades no lower than indicated on the above scale.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Requests for accommodations by persons with disabilities may be made by contacting the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities at 517-884-RCPD or on the web at `rcpd.msu.edu`. Once your eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, you will be issued a verified individual services accommodation ("VISA") form. Please present this form to me at the start of the term and/or two weeks prior to the accommodation date (test, project, etc). Requests received after this date will be honored whenever possible.

STUDENTS WITHDRAWING FROM THE COURSE:

You may drop the course with a refund for tuition through **January 31**, and you may drop with no grade reported by **February 26**.