Math 118 Syllabus

Spring 2010

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Course

Math 118 is a continuation of Math 117, taught in the Fall semester. While it is not necessary that you have taken Math 117 in order to enroll in Math 118, you will be expected to be proficient in the material covered in Math 117. The same text was used for that course as we are using so if you were not enrolled in Math 117 last Fall, you should review Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 to familiarize yourself with the texts approach.

The format of Math 118 will resemble that of the first semester of the course. Traditional fifty minute lectures will occasionally be replaced by brief discussions that highlight themes and examples from previously assigned readings. A portion of class time may be devoted to small groups working on problems.

The textbook selected for this course was chosen because it has proven particularly successful when used in a format such as the one outlined above. The text uses practical examples from the physical and social sciences to illustrate the major concepts of calculus. Since you will be responsible for much of your own learning in this course it is imperative that you read the text. The assigned readings will be short but you must spend time studying them. Much of what you will be doing in this course will be learning how to solve problems. To this end the text stresses conceptual understanding over memorization and creative approaches to the techniques of calculus over drill. Our work in and out of class will reflect this. For this reason graphing calculators will be used at every opportunity to avoid numbing calculations and to aid in visualizing, where possible, the fundamental ideas of the course.

Supplies


Graphing Calculator: You will need a graphing calculator such as a TI-82 or TI-83. Other graphing calculators may be acceptable, but you should speak with me to be sure.

Bring both your textbook and your graphing calculator to every class since
we will be using them often.

Grading

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In addition you must pass a skills test in order to pass this course.

**Homework:** Weekly homework assignments will be assigned on Friday, sometimes with an addendum on Monday, and will be due in class the following Friday. You are welcome to seek help on the individual homework assignments from other students, the Math Workshop, TAs, and your instructor. However, **you must write up your own homework yourself**, and it should be well written, readable, and all pages should be stapled together. A list of Answers without supporting documentation is unacceptable. In other words, show your work. **Late homework will not be accepted. However, you are allowed to drop your two lowest homework scores.**

We will arrange for weekly TA sessions (Schedule TBA) which you are encouraged to attend if you have difficulty with the weeks assignment. Of course you are also encouraged to consult with me if you encounter difficulties or obscurities, or just to chat if you like.

**Quizzes:** The noon session on Monday will be devoted to a question and answer period followed by a short quiz. The question and answer period will provide a review of the previous weeks work (the concepts introduced along with any applications developed) and is intended to allow you to check on your understanding of the material. The quiz will also be based on the work of the previous week and is meant to monitor progress so that any difficulties or misconceptions may be uncovered and corrected quickly. Attendance at these sessions is part of the course. **There will be no make-up quizzes for any who miss a session. However, as with the Homework, you will be allowed to drop the lowest two quiz scores in computing your quiz grade.**

**Exams:** There will be three examinations (in addition to the Skills Test, see below). As indicated these will be equally weighted. One will be the Final Exam. The other two will be approximately 1/3, respectively 2/3, of the way through the course. Exams will take place on Tuesday evenings from 7:00-9:00pm.

**Participation:** We encourage you to participate actively as a member of the class through any comments on the material as it is developed and, especially, in bringing to light any difficulties or obscurities that you might encounter. If something seems unclear to you the
chances are very good that others are also unsure of what is going on and we will all be grateful if you bring such things to our attention. Class attendance is essential in this regard and will be a significant factor in determining your participation grade.

**Skills Test:**After Section 3 of chapter 7 has been covered in class, you must take the Skills Test. This test is intended to confirm that you have learned some important techniques of integration. The test will be administered during the 12:00pm Monday session on 3/29. For anyone who is not successful on the first try, tests will be available for you to take on your own time. You will be allowed to take the Skills Test as many times as necessary in order to pass it, but **you must have passed the test prior to the last week of classes.** Each time you take the exam you will be given a different (but comparable) version of the test.

**Places to Get Help**

**Instructor:** You should always feel free to stop by my office during the designated office hours. If you are unable to make my office hours please send me an email to make an appointment.

**TA Schedule:** TBA

**Math Workshop:** You are encouraged to make use of the Math Workshop, a free tutoring lab provided by the Mathematics Department. Located in the Science Library, the workshop is open Monday through Thursday from 2:30 to 5:00pm and Sunday through Thursday from 7:00 to 10:00pm during the semester. In the Workshop you will be able to work one-on-one with advanced mathematics students and graduate students.

**Students with Disabilities**

It is the policy of Wesleyan University to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. Students, however, are responsible for registering with Disabilities Services, in addition to making requests known to me in a timely manner. If you require accommodations in this class, please make an appointment with me during the first two weeks of class, so that appropriate arrangements can be made. All discussions will remain confidential. Students with disabilities should also contact Dean Lazare. Please see http://www.wesleyan.edu/deans/disability-students.html for more information.