

Use of Rensselaer LMS in Introduction to Differential Equations MATH 2400 – Fall 2011

September 5, 2011

Some aspects of the course will be administered using Rensselaer LMS. Start from the RPIInfo page <http://www.rpi.edu/rpinfo/> and click on the RPI LMS link, or just start directly with the URL for the LMS login page

<http://rpilms.rpi.edu>

If you have never used RPILMS before, then you might wish to click the “Help” button. You might also click the “Check Browser” link in the upper right to make sure RPI LMS will work fine with your browser settings. (It complained about Firefox 6.0.1 on my Macintosh but on reading more deeply into supported browsers, it seems to be OK.) Don’t worry about reading everything; I will describe below those (few) features which are necessary for the purposes of this class. From the login page, click “Log In,” then use your normal RCS user name and password to log in. If you are unsuccessful, be sure to “Check Browser.” If you are still stuck, ask a friend or the VCC help desk (x7777) for assistance. If you can successfully log into RPI LMS but can’t see “Introduction to Differential Equations” in the “Course List,” then contact me (if you are registered for the class). Note that it takes the system a day or two after you register to give you access to the course RPI LMS site.

Once you log in, you can click on the title of this course (Introduction to Differential Equations) to access the material pertinent to this class. Look both in the main panel and the menu on the left side.

Here are the most important pieces:

Announcements Look here for important new developments regarding the course.

Assessments Occasionally, I may ask the class to respond to some survey about the course direction.

Calendar Important course events will be posted here, as well as some suggested

readings to accompany the lectures.

Discussions This is like a bulletin board, and will be the means by which class issues and questions about homework, exams, etc. will be addressed. It allows me to respond to questions in a way from which the whole class can benefit without me repeatedly e-mailing everyone. If you are about to work on homework, or have some question about some part, check the “Discussions” first to see if it has been addressed already. It’s pretty straightforward; click on “Help“ near the top of the page if you need to. You should post any question or comment to the appropriate “category,” according to the following guidelines:

- If it’s about homework, post it to “Homework.”
- If it’s a question about preparing for an exam, post it to “Exams.”
- If you have a suggestion or comment about the course, please post it to “Suggestions and Concerns.”
- Anything that doesn’t fit into these categories should go in “Miscellaneous.” This could be general questions about the course material, etc.

All posts to these fora are anonymous to other students, though the instructor will be able to see your identity.

Mail You can send RPILMS mail to other students’ RPILMS accounts or to mine. You will also receive e-mails from me concerning the course here. You can have incoming RPILMS mail forwarded to your RCS account by the following process: From “My Blackboard,” the first screen immediately after RPILMS login, click on ”My Settings” in the upper right, then on the tab “My Tool Options.” Among other things, you can scroll down to the section on “Mail” and check the box by “Forward all mail messages to the e-mail address in my profile.” Then be sure to click the ”Save” radio button at the bottom of the screen.

It’s up to you whether you want to e-mail me directly at kramep@rpi.edu or RPILMS mail me, but I advise you to use RPILMS mail because that mail is also copied to my RCS account.

Please remember, though, that general questions about homework and suggestions about the course should be directed toward Discussions, not to Mail. Mail is appropriate for administrative matters like requesting appointments which don’t concern anyone else.

Syllabus Click on this to see the syllabus and general course information.

My Grades You can keep track of your current grade here and compare to the class statistics. More on this later once you have some grade to check!

Class Notes You can find some documents and auxiliary material to supplement the lectures here.

Homework You can view the suggested homework problems and solutions here.

Exams This is where practice exams and exam solutions will be posted. It will be activated as we approach the first exam.