Math 2400 Intro to Diff Eq Sections 17-20
Grading and Course Policies

The **advance grade** for the course is a grade based on everything prior to the final exam. The **course grade** is your final grade for the course.

The advance grade will be computed as follows:

- 75% exams (25% each)
- 15% quizzes
- 10% collected HW problems

The final exam will be required for everyone, and must be taken **AT THE TIME AND LOCATION ASSIGNED** unless an excuse is approved and verified by the Dean of Students Office.

The course grade will be determined in whichever of the following two ways produces the highest grade:

- (A) course grade = 80% advance grade and 20% Final Exam
- (B) course grade = 60% advance grade and 40% Final Exam

The idea is that a good performance on the final exam can help you substantially whereas a single bad day on the final won’t destroy your course grade utterly.

Each exam, including the final exam, will be worth 105 points but will be counted as if it were a 100-point exam. There will be no other curve on the exams and no curve on the homeworks. Thus, the course grade will be obtained numerically based on the scheme described above, and letter grades will be computed as follows:

\[
\geq 90 = A; \quad 80 - 89 = B; \quad 65 - 79 = C; \quad 55 - 64 = D; \quad < 55 = F
\]

**Homeworks, Exams and other policies:**

1. **Homework Assignments**

   These will be assigned periodically, about every three weeks. The assignments will consist of several problems, some of which are from the text. Some of the problems will require the use of MAPLE in addition to pencil and paper work.

   From each homework assignment, one or two problems, which will be specified on the assignment, will be collected and graded. You may discuss these problems with other students; however, the write-up you hand in should be completely your own work. This means you MAY NOT copy someone else’s words verbatim and you MAY NOT use identical MAPLE sessions (which can be easily detected from style, typos, etc.). Such actions will be considered cheating and will result in a grade of zero for that homework.

   While the remainder of the problems will not be collected, you are encouraged to try as many of the problems as you can. The problems vary widely in
difficulty level, so don’t be discouraged if you sometimes have trouble. The quizzes will be based on the more computational homework problems.

2. **Exams and Quizzes:** We will have 3 exams; their tentative dates are listed on the accompanying sheet. Most Fridays, we will have a short quiz. The quizzes will typically last 10-15 minutes and will consist of a few short, computational problems. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped. If you miss a quiz without a documented excuse, you will receive a zero and will not be allowed to make the quiz up.

3. **Academic Integrity on Exams and Quizzes:** All work submitted in a quiz or exam must be your own. Collaborating on a quiz or examination is not permitted. Academic dishonesty may result in an exam or quiz grade of zero and a report to the Dean of Students. Additional penalties may be imposed and can be harsh; check the section on Academic Integrity in the Rensselaer Student Handbook.

4. **Make-Up Exams:** If you must miss an exam because of a prior obligation, you must speak to me about it IN ADVANCE of the exam. If you miss an exam for an unforeseen but valid reason (e.g., illness), you must obtain a WRITTEN EXCUSE (from medical professional or Dean of Students) or the infirmary must confirm your illness. If you miss an exam WITHOUT a written excuse (e.g., your alarm didn’t go off, etc.) you must inform me within 24 hours of the exam time. In this case, you will be given a make-up, but will automatically lose 15 points off the top.

5. **Handing in Homework:** You are expected to submit your HW in class on the day the assignment is due. If you cannot make it to class at this time, you must receive prior permission from your recitation instructor to hand the HW in early. Otherwise, DO NOT leave HW’s in Dr. Schmidt’s or your recitation instructor’s mailbox. Any HW left in a mailbox without prior permission will be regarded as late. Late HW’s will lose 25 % of the grade earned and will not be accepted more than 24 hours after the due date.

6. **Contesting Grades and Retrieving Graded Work:** If you wish to contest a graded exam or assignment, you must speak to me within **one week** of the date the assignment is first returned in class. After this deadline, the grade will be final. Also, if your work is not picked up within one week of the date the assignment is returned in class, you forfeit all rights to contest the grade.