

INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS IN MY MATH 124 SECTIONS

NOTE: Much more information on Math 124 can be found at the course website

<http://www.math.washington.edu/~m124>

Calculus is a challenging course for several reasons. First of all, we have to cover a large number of topics and problem-solving techniques in a relatively short period of time. A 10-week quarter has 30 lecture classes (compared to 180 days in a high-school year). This means that lectures cannot cover every detail of every type of problem, and much of the learning takes place through worksheets (the group work in your Tuesday/Thursday sections), homework, studying your notes and textbook examples, and doing practice exams.

In the second place, we expect active mastery, not just passive understanding. Passive understanding of how to solve a problem means that the solution makes sense to you when someone else does it or shows you how to do it. Active mastery means that you can do it yourself in an exam situation.

In the third place, we emphasize story problems. Being able to do story problems requires a greater depth of understanding than just being able to solve routine pure-math problems. All of the story problems on exams and quizzes can, of course, be solved using the techniques you have learned. However, at first glance a problem may seem unfamiliar because of the language used to describe the practical scenario. So you have to be able to recognize how to translate the everyday language into the language of mathematics and then use the appropriate math technique.

According to Math Department policy, the median final course grade in each lecture section must be between 2.7 and 3.1. This means that if an instructor initially grades the class and gets a median of 2.6, he/she must curve up everyone's grade by an average of 0.1. If the initial median is 3.2, then he/she must curve down the grades by an average of 0.1. In past quarters the median course grades in my Math 124 sections have always fallen in the 2.7–3.1 range, and so I have never had to curve them up or down.

Grading: 5% homework, 10% participation, 20% quizzes, 15% each of two midterms, 35% final exam

Conversion from points out of 100 to a grade: 90 or more is a 4.0, 70=3.0, 50=2.0, 30=1.0, etc.

Taking tests early: If you anticipate a conflict with a quiz or midterm, please arrange to take it a day or two early during your T.A.'s or my office hours. Under no circumstances will a test be given late. This is because we make answers available and encourage students to talk about the test right after it's over.

No excuses will be accepted for a missed quiz or midterm, with one exception. If you have a documented medical illness or emergency, then you will be excused from the test (which means that your grade will be computed on the basis of the other tests, as if the missed one didn't exist). A note from your doctor must contain a phone number for verification. We cannot accept undocumented medical excuses; nor are we in a position to evaluate or make judgments about whether or not other types of excuses are valid, so we cannot accept them.

In the case of the final exam, if you have a conflict you may petition the Math Advising office to let you take the make-up final exam, which is given 4 days later (the Wednesday of exam week). They only accept extremely compelling reasons, such as a religious objection to taking an exam on a Saturday. If you have a documented medical emergency that prevents you from taking the exam, then on the basis of that documentation the Math Advising office will arrange for you to take the make-up exam, assuming that you are medically able to by that time. If not, you should ask me to give you a grade of Incomplete (which basically means that you have to take the final exam next quarter).

CALCULATOR POLICY: No calculator may be used on any quiz or midterm. On the final exam the TI30X-IIS calculator may be used, but no other one. Please also be sure that the only calculator you use in this course when doing the worksheets is the IIS model (2-line display) of the TI30X, that is, the same one that will be permitted on the final exam. The use of a cellphone or any other electronic device on a quiz or exam (except for the TI30X-IIS calculator on the final exam) is forbidden.

ONE-PAGE SHEET: On both midterms and the final exam (but **NOT** on the quizzes) you may use a sheet of notes in your own writing (not downloaded or photocopied). The sheet can be 8 1/2 X 11 inches, and can be two-sided.

DICTIONARY: If your native language is not English, you may bring to any quiz or exam a (hard copy) dictionary between English and your own language. Please first show you T.A. the dictionary you will be using.

CHEATING: Any talking to a friend, looking on another student's paper, or use of a cellphone (or any other unauthorized device) during a quiz or exam constitutes cheating.

PLEASE NOTE: If you observe any instance of cheating, please report it to me or your T.A. immediately with as many details as possible so that I can take appropriate action. It is unfair to honest students to allow anyone to get a higher grade by cheating.

CHEATING ON HOMEWORK: Someone who gets answers from a friend or from an online source is likely to be totally unprepared for the quizzes and exams, and so will do very poorly on them. Since quizzes and exams count 85% of the grade (and homework counts only 5%), the poor exam performance will be sufficient punishment for cheating on homework. Thus, if you observe cheating on the homework, there is no need to report it to us, since in that case we don't take any disciplinary action.