Policies and Advice
Math 441: Differential Equations (Sections B13, D13)
Prof. Richard Laugesen Laugesen@illinois.edu, 376 Altgeld Hall - Spring 2019

Attendance and class preparation - class attendance is expected. Attendance will not constitute part of your grade, but coming to lecture regularly increases your chances for success. Any material discussed in class may be tested in the exams (unless we say otherwise). Class time will mostly be devoted to lecturing; however, there will also be discussion, and work on problems. So, come to class prepared to concentrate, and to work actively.

Cellphone policy - to promote interaction and concentration, cellphones are not to be used for any purpose in the classroom - put them away before you enter the room. Anyone using a cellphone will be asked to leave. Tablets and laptops are permitted, provided they are used for class purposes.

Webassign homework - following each lecture a WebAssign homework covering the lecture material will be posted online. You are responsible for checking for new homework, after each class. It must be completed within 4-5 days of the time it is assigned. You are free to discuss the homework with your classmates, but please try hard to understand the solution yourself. Extensions will not be granted. Make-up homeworks will not be given.

Written homework – will be posted weekly at the class website. You are welcome to discuss problems with other students, and to consult books, online resources, and so on. But you will learn the most if you try hard to solve each problem yourself. You must write your solutions yourself. Submitting homework that you did not write, or that you do not understand, is academic dishonesty.

General exam policies
• Conflict exams will be approved only if you present written evidence that you must miss an exam for a legitimate reason, such as a religious observance, university sports competition, family emergency, or illness.
• If your conflict can be predicted in advance then the evidence must be presented in advance, by following the procedure that will be announced ahead of each scheduled exam.
• In case of religious observances, the official university form must be submitted. In case of illness, a note showing a visit to McKinley will generally suffice.
• Travel and leisure plans, even for family events, are never a legitimate reason for missing an exam.
• Notes, books, calculators and other devices may not be used during exams.
• Do not look at anyone else’s work during an exam, and do not communicate with any person about the exam, except with the proctors in case of queries. Any form of cheating or violation of exam rules will be dealt with swiftly and firmly under the provisions of the Student Code.

Advice for success in the class
• Come to the Collaborative Homework Sessions (Mon and Thu 5-6pm in 243 Altgeld Hall).
* Come to the Office Hour (Fri 2:30-3:30pm in 376 Altgeld Hall).
• Come to class prepared, by re-working your lecture notes since the last class - check every step and fill in missing calculations. Work through the proofs and examples on paper.
• Read the textbook after you re-work the notes - the text helps you see the big picture.
• Ask questions early and often, about steps you don't understand.
• Start the HW early, and get help on any problems you can't solve. Don’t do the HW by plugging into some website (since you won’t learn the material). Ask HW questions on Piazza.

• When preparing for exams, summarize the important concepts and methods. Learn the definitions (they tell you what the words mean). Then work some problems.
• After reading a theorem or algorithm, try to summarize the important concepts. This creates a mental framework for the problems you work on.
• Debrief thoroughly on each exam as soon as you get it back. Learn from mistakes.

If you work actively on the material with a pen in hand and scrap paper in front of you, and if you summarize how to solve problems and write down questions to yourself about what you do not understand, then you are likely to succeed in the course. And we are here to help – good luck!