Mathematics 251: Calculus III

Course Contract

General:

- Instructor: Skip Thompson
- Email: thompson@radford.edu
- RU web page: http://www.radford.edu/~thompson
- Office: Walker 241
- Office Hours: TBA
- Telephone: 831–5478

Required Text:


Course Topics:

1. Introduction to Differential Equations (7.1–7.6)
2. Infinite Sequences and Series (8.1–8.10)
3. Conic Sections (Appendix A) and Vector Analysis (9.1–9.7)
4. Selected Topics from Chapter 10, as time permits

Course Requirements and Grading Policy:

We will have three chapter exams, your WebWork score will be counted as a fourth exam. and we will have a comprehensive final exam. Although each of the exams will concentrate on the material for that exam, previous material may be included directly or indirectly. Your score on the final exam will replace any lower score on the other four exams. The lowest of the five exam scores will be dropped. At this point you will have four adjusted exam scores. The four exams will constitute 80% of your course grade. Maple assignments will constitute the remaining 20% of your course grade.

Your course grade will be determined on a 90–80–70–60% basis. Exams are generally closed book, closed notes; but you may use a reasonable number of index cards containing formulas. Each exam will consist of problems similar to those assigned from the text and others discussed in class. Each will also contain questions which will test your understanding of the examples given in the text. No makeup exams will be given. If you miss an exam for any reason, your grade on the final exam will replace the missed exam.

Attendance Policy:

Attendance at all class meetings is expected and strongly recommended. One of the biggest
traps you can fall into in this course is to not attend class regularly. 10% will be added to the final grade of any students who miss no more than three classes. (Examples: If your course average is 76% and you miss no more than three classes, your average will be adjusted to 86%, a B. If your average is 76% and you miss more than three classes, your average will not be adjusted.) It’s your responsibility to sign the class roll each day: if your name isn’t on the roll, you’re absent that day. Signing for other people or leaving class early are no–noes. Since this is a gimme, please don’t wait until you have several absences before appreciating the importance of coming to class regularly. 

Please be aware that students who do not attend class and the peer sessions regularly never get a break when it comes to judgment calls on my part. As some of you already know, attendance is something I feel very strongly about.

Homework:

Homework problems will be assigned for each class meeting. Another big trap you can fall into is to not do the homework regularly and to try to simply rely on the solutions which are presented in class. The previous sentence is the most important statement on this page. The old adage that Mathematics is not a good spectator sport was never truer than in this course. Please do your best to do the homework problems yourself before we discuss them in class.

Attendance and Homework, One More Time:

Students who come to class regularly, make a conscientious effort to do the homework, help out in class (especially those who catch mistakes), and do not throw sharp objects at the instructor (in or out of class!) leave a very good impression with the instructor. Students who don’t do all of the first three items (and those who do the fourth) do not leave a good impression: they never get a break in borderline cases.

Calculators:

You need a scientific graphics calculator for this course. It must have the basic arithmetic functions, the trig and inverse trig functions, and logs and exponentials. Use of calculators is permitted for all homework and exams. Sharing of calculators during exams is not permitted.

Students with Disabilities:

If you are seeking classroom accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you are required to register with the Disability Resource Office which is located in Room 32 of Tyler Hall. The telephone number is 831–6350. To receive academic accommodations for this class, please obtain the proper forms from the DRO and meet with me at the beginning of the semester.

Radford University Honor Code Policy:
By accepting admission to Radford University, each student makes a commitment to understand, support, and abide by the University Honor Code without compromise or exception. Violations of this academic integrity will not be tolerated. This class will be conducted in strict observance of the Honor Code. Refer to your Student Handbook for details.