

MA 123 - CALCULUS II - FALL SEMESTER '09

Course Info Sheet

Professor Diane Meuser

Teaching Fellow: Angela Zhong

TIME AND PLACE:

Tuesday and Thursday from 11:00 - 12:20 in MCS 148. The discussion section times and places are:

E2: Friday 1:00 - 2:00 in PSY 212

E3: Friday 2:00 - 3:00 in PSY B51

You must choose one of the above discussion sections and attend it throughout the semester. You must take quizzes in your chosen discussion section each week, so be sure you choose a discussion you can attend regularly. If you wish to attend other discussion sections for the purposes of additional review you certainly can do so provided there are seats available, but you must take the quiz in your chosen discussion each week.

OFFICE HOURS: HOW TO CONTACT ME AND THE TF:

Prof. Meuser's office: MCS 249 (111 Cummington St.)

Office Hours: Tuesday 1:00 - 2:30 PM, Thursday 2:30 - 4:00 PM

Math Help Hours:

Claffin Hall: Tuesday Evenings: 7:30 - 10:30 PM.

Phone: 617-353 - 9554 email: dmm@math.bu.edu

My Web Page: <http://math.bu.edu/people/dmm>

Angela's office: MCS 258

Angela's Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday: 1:30 - 2:30 PM.

Phone: 617-353-2562 email: angela.zhong@gmail.com

YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO COME WITH ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.

TEXT:

Calculus, Concepts and Contexts by James Stewart, Fourth Edition. We will be covering material in Chapters 2 - 5.3.

CALCULATOR REQUIREMENTS:

A graphing calculator is NOT required for this course. However if you wish to use a graphing calculator you are free to do so. The best calculator is one that you can use effectively. Extra features which you don't know how to use only make using it more difficult.

If you have and are familiar with a calculator that you used in high school, you will probably find that one perfectly adequate for this course. If you are interested in purchasing a new calculator and want a more advanced model I would recommend the TI 86 or the TI-89. I use the TI-86, but I would use a TI-89 if I had one.

NOTE on using calculators to obtain answers: You will not receive credit for any answer to a problem obtained on a calculator when you are expected to know how to do the problem without a calculator. If you are in doubt on what work has to be shown to correctly answer a particular question, or type of question, then you should ask.

CLASS ATTENDANCE:

It is the policy of the university that class attendance is required. Hence I will distribute an attendance sheet in each class. If you miss a class you are responsible for any information that I gave out in class and should obtain notes from someone else in the class.. Attendance is not counted directly in the computation of your course grade. However I reserve the right to use it as a factor in borderline and/or unusual cases.

Everyone in the class should have at least one "class buddy", that is someone that they can get notes and class information from in the event that they have to miss a class.

Most students will find that regular attendance in class is the best and most efficient way to learn the material. In class I will do problems similar to those you are expected to know how to do and point out any potential pitfalls. I realize the 8 AM hour is not the most desirable for many students. However in my experience the students who make the effort to attend class wind up doing the best. If you choose not to regularly attend class you will most likely wind up spending substantially more time keeping up with the course than you would by attending class and most probably your grade in this class will be less than it would be if you had attended class regularly.

CLASSROOM POLICY: I do not allow any behavior in the class which is disruptive to you and/or others. In particular I do not allow the use of cellphones for either talking or texting, and cellphones should be turned off before entering the classroom. Computers are allowed only if they are being used to take notes. Headphones are not allowed. Conversations between you and a neighboring student are only allowed if they are very brief, very quiet and you are discussing classroom material. In general any behavior which is disruptive or distracting to other students attending the class will not be tolerated.

PHONE AND EMAIL CONTACT:

Do not expect myself or the TF to return phone calls or email messages asking for information that has been given in class and/or is available on my webpage. Since I get a lot of emails, I will not reply to emails asking for information that was given out in class. If you choose not to attend class you must get this information from students that do attend class. If you have other questions/concerns you wish to ask me in an email I will try to get back to you ASAP.

WEBPAGE: <http://math.bu.edu/people/dmm>

Homework that has been assigned in class will also be posted on my webpage at the end of each week.

Exam dates are listed under important dates. Any special course announcements will also be posted on my webpage under Special Announcements.

Other items of interest will be posted here as well.

HOMEWORK AND QUIZZES:

Homework problems will be assigned in class as each section is covered. Homework is not collected. There will be an approximately fifteen minute quiz at the end of each discussion hour, which will usually consist of two of the homework problems assigned the previous week. The questions that will be covered on the weekly quiz will be announced on Thursdays before the quiz.

Quizzes will be held in every scheduled discussion section except Friday, December 11 (last day of classes).

EXAMS:

Exam 1: Thursday, October 1

Exam 2: Thursday, November 5

Exam 3: Thursday, December 10

during our class time.

NOTE: Exams may be given in a room other than our classroom which will be announced and posted on my webpage as soon as known.

There will **NOT** be a comprehensive final exam. The exam on December 10 is Exam 3 will test material learned since Exam 2,

Attendance is required at all exams. Do not make any plans which conflict with the above exam dates.

MAKE-UP QUIZ and EXAM POLICY:

There are no make-up quizzes. You are allowed to miss two quizzes without having your quiz grade affected. More than two quizzes missed results in zeroes for those quizzes. If you have a perfect attendance at quizzes you will have your two lowest quiz grades dropped.

Attendance is required at examinations. If you miss an exam you will receive a zero for that exam. Exceptions to this are possible only when there are unavoidable circumstances that prevent you from attending the exam. These need to be explained and/or documented to my satisfaction and I must be informed of these circumstances as quickly as possible. You will not be entitled to a make-up exam for any reasons that are preventable and/or minor such as oversleeping (you and your class buddy should make sure you are both up!) or a minor illness.

If I decide that the circumstances that prevented you from taking an exam were unavoidable then I will authorize a make-up exam. You should expect that a make-up exam will be different from the original exam and may be more difficult than the original exam since you will have had additional time to study for it.

Any authorized make-up exams will be given on

Friday, December 18 from 9 - 11 AM

which is the time scheduled by the university for our final exam in a room to be announced.

CHEATING:

I consider cheating to be a very serious offense. It is very unfair to other students who may have to work hard to do well on the material. Since grades are curved, an unfairly achieved high score hurts the grade of everyone else. I urge anyone who is aware of a cheating situation to inform me immediately. You can do so and remain anonymous in a

variety ways, for instance by simply appearing to ask me a question and either whispering to me or passing a written note. If you do so I will respect your desire for non-involvement and anonymity.

Students are responsible for knowing the CAS Academic Conduct code, which is posted at:

<http://www.bu.edu/cas/academics/programs/conductcode.html>

Cases of suspected academic misconduct will be referred to the Dean's Office where the Academic Conduct Committee will consider disciplinary action, such as expulsion from the university.

STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE:

CLASSES: I strongly recommend that you attend class. In each class I will go over the key concepts that you need to understand with an emphasis on examples and problems similar to those that you will be expected to do. In my experience most students will find trying to learn the material from the book or other sources much more difficult and time consuming.

HOMEWORK: In each class I will give a list of homework problems based on the lecture. After each class it is recommended that you do these assigned homework problems. If you have difficulty doing the problems then you should refer back to some of the examples that I did in class. If you still have difficulty then you should seek help as soon as possible from the WAYS TO GET HELP listed below.

QUIZZES: There is a quiz in every discussion section. The quiz will consist of one or two (usually two) randomly chosen assigned homework problems. Doing the homework problems will be the best way to do well on the weekly quizzes.

EXAMS: Exams will consist of questions similar to assigned homework problems, although most likely will not exactly be homework problems. In addition you can expect there to be questions that test your understanding of the material rather than just the ability to do problems exactly similar to those you were previously asked. The best way to prepare for exams is to make sure that you have done all of the homework problems, and that you have understood the conceptual ideas behind these problems, rather than just memorizing how to do them. Doing additional problems in any section where you are unsure of your understanding is highly recommended. In addition the review questions at the end of each chapter can help you make sure you understand the material.

There are sample copies of a previous semesters exam on my web page for the course. These will give you an idea of the type of questions that can be asked and the format of the exam. However the actual questions on the exam will most likely not be the same as on these exams.

WAYS TO GET HELP:

1) Go to room 144 in the Math and Computer Science building at 111 Cummington St. Graduate students in mathematics are on duty there most daytime hours during weekdays to provide free tutoring to anyone who asks for it. Any graduate student on duty there will be able to help you with your questions, so you should feel free to go at any time. This is undoubtedly the best way to get your questions answered as quickly as possible.

2) Discussion sections. These are designed for you to ask questions on the homework, so come prepared with your questions. However due to limited time the Teaching Fellow

may not have time to answer every question, thus students wishing to guarantee they are well-prepared for the quiz will find 1) preferable.

3) Come to my office during office hours. At other times you should seek help in Room 144 as in 1), however if you feel you need to speak to me personally and my office hours conflict with your schedule you can make an appointment to see me.

4) Go to the teaching fellow's office during their office hours. You should feel free to go to them with questions.

5) **EXTRA BONUS: My Math Help Sessions in the Residence Halls.**

I am a Faculty Resident at West Campus and provide free mathematics tutoring for students in any math course during the above time. You are encouraged to come and take advantage of this. You do not have to live in the dorms to come. Just tell the door guard you are there for Math Help and give him your ID.

WHEN and WHERE: Tuesdays 7:30 - 10:30 P.M. in Study Lounge B12, Basement of Claffin Hall, West Campus. In the event I cannot make it on Tuesday night I will try to reschedule it for the same time Monday or Wednesday night. I will announce this in class. Any schedule changes will also be posted on my Math Help web page at:
<http://math.bu.edu/people/dmm/FacRes/mathhelp.html>

6) A very good way to get help is to work with others in the class on solving problems, or to seek help from students who have had the class before. You can make some new friends this way!

7) The Educational Resource Center runs a tutoring program where they will give anyone who requests one a free tutor in a subject for a few hours a week. Give them a call 3-7077 or stop by their office on the 4th floor of the George Sherman Union to find out more about this possible option.

NOTE: I was told by the ERC that it is recommended that you go with some classmates to request a tutor since you will most likely receive one more quickly than if you go alone.

8) If you would like to hire a private tutor, the mathematics department keeps a list of mathematics graduate students who are available shortly after the semester begins. It is usually posted. Ask in the Mathematics Dept. office or ask me after the semester begins where such a list is posted.

WARNING: Do NOT assume you will do well in this class just because you may have had some of this material before. The questions asked may be sufficiently different and/or your understanding of the material may not be as good as you may think it is! If you have had some of the material before, your goal should be to understand it better, not rely on your past knowledge.

If you have NOT had this material before, or think you don't already know it, you should not be discouraged by others in the class who think they do. In my experience the people that do best in the course are those that keep up with the material of this course rather than rely on any past knowledge. Typically some of the people that do the best in the course have never had any of the material before!

SUMMARY: ATTEND CLASS , WORK ON AND UNDERSTAND HOMEWORK PROBLEMS, DON'T STAY STUCK - ASK !!

GRADING POLICY:

There is a quiz given in every discussion section. Each quiz grade will be a score out of ten points. As explained above, you are allowed to miss two quizzes without affecting your quiz grade. If you take all of the quizzes your two lowest quiz grades will be dropped. A quiz score out of 100 points will be computed from these quizzes.

Each of the three exams will count 100 points. After each exam I will announce approximate letter grades which are “curved” and give you an indication of how you did on the exam in comparison with others in the class and what letter grade you may be heading towards.

Your three exams and quiz scores will result in a total score out of 400 possible points. I.e. each of your exams and quiz score counts 25% toward your grade. Your letter grade in the course will be based on this total score. Grades are “curved”, i.e. your total point score is compared to those of others in the class. However I also reserve the right to set minimum competency levels for certain letter grades. Additional factors such as consistent performance, and upward/downward trends on exam and quiz grades are also taken into consideration, and can result in a higher or lower letter grade than others with comparable total point scores.