

# MA 563: INTRODUCTION TO DIFFERENTIAL GEOMETRY

Fall 2018 Syllabus

CAS 201 MWF 11:15-12:05

**Instructor:** Siu-Cheong Lau  
**Office:** MCS 230  
**Email:** [lau@math.bu.edu](mailto:lau@math.bu.edu)  
**Website:** <http://math.bu.edu/people/lau/Lau/Teaching.html>  
**Office hour:** Thu 10:30-12; 2-3:30

## Overview:

Study of local properties of curves and surfaces in the three-dimensional Euclidean space; curvature, torsion, Frenet equations, tangent and normal planes; first and second fundamental form; principal, mean and Gaussian curvature; vector fields, covariant differentiation, geodesics, surfaces of constant curvature.

## Three main components:

- Curves
- Surfaces
- Intrinsic geometry of surfaces

## Prerequisites:

You should be familiar with multivariable calculus and linear algebra. I will help you to recall the related materials whenever necessary during the class.

## Textbook:

*Kuhnel - Differential Geometry: Curves - Surfaces – Manifolds*

## References:

*Do Carmo - Differential geometry of curves and surfaces*

*O'Neill - Elementary Differential Geometry*

*Do Carmo - Differential Forms & Applications (more advanced)*

## Homework:

I will post the problem set on the course homepage in the end of every week. You should submit it in the next **Friday class**.

## Exam:

There will be one in-class mid-term test and one take-home final exam. The mid-term test will be scheduled on **October 31** (Wednesday).

## Grading:

Homework (two lowest homework scores will be dropped)	30%
In-class mid-term test (October 31)	30%
Take-home final exam (End of semester)	40%