

Honors Calculus
MA 129
Fall 2009

Professor: Robert Pollack
Office: MCS 232
E-mail: rpollack@bu.edu
Office hours: Monday 1–2; Thursday 2:30–3:30, 5–6
Lecture: Tuesday, Thursday 11–12:30; PSY B45
Discussion section: Monday 2–3; PSY B49

General comments: The material covered in Honors Calculus is **not** the same as the material covered in a standard calculus course. Indeed, you are expected to have already completed an entire year of calculus (and to remember the material!). In this course, we will study deeply the underlying structures and the reasons why the main results of calculus are true. This course will be much more theoretical than a standard calculus course with an emphasis on reasoning, proofs, and the careful writing of mathematical ideas.

Text: *Calculus (4th Ed.)*, Michael Spivak, (Publish or Perish), 2010.

[You may use the 3rd edition of this book if you wish, but make sure the HW exercises haven't changed!]

Website: The web page for the course located at:

<http://math.bu.edu/people/rpollack/Teach/129fall109.html>

Homework assignments will be posted on this website along with other information for the course.

Homework: (an essential part of the course!)

- Problem sets will be assigned weekly and are due at the start of class each Tuesday.
- Two to three randomly selected questions will be graded from each week's homework.
- The bottom *two* homework grades will be dropped.
- You are encourage to work together on problem sets. **However, each student must write-up their own problem sets in their own words, notation, etc.**

Exams: There will be 1 in-class midterm, 1 take-home midterm, and a final exam. The dates of the exams are listed below:

In-class midterm	Thursday, October 15th	In class
Take-home midterm	Handed out on November 10th	Due on November 17th
Final exam	Friday, December 18th	9–11 in TBA

Course grading: Your final grade will be computed using the following breakdown:

Homework	30%
In-class midterm	20%
Take-home midterm	20%
Final	25%
Class participation	5%

Outside help:

- (1) Diane Meuser runs a help session on Tuesday nights (7:30–10:30) for math classes of *all levels*. The sessions take place in West Campus. See:

<http://math.bu.edu/people/dmm/FacRes/mathhelp.html>

for more information.

- (2) There are math graduate students on duty to answer questions from any class in MCS 144 during most working hours. This is a fantastic resource that is available all week long.

Miscellaneous Items of Interest:

- Late homeworks are not accepted.
- Make-up exams are only given in the case of serious illness.
- Incompletes are rarely given and only for extreme situations.

Academic honesty policy: Given the sterling qualities of character to be found in each and every student at Boston University, it is certainly unnecessary to mention that plagiarism and cheating are not only dishonest and immoral, but are also against the policies of Boston University. Please keep in mind that, in the highly unlikely event that you do choose to plagiarize or cheat, you will be referred immediately to the University Academic Standards Committee for disciplinary action.