

MA131 Calculus for Life and Management Sciences A

Fall 2009

North Carolina State University
Department of Mathematics

MW 6 : 40 pm - 8 : 30 pm
Harrelson Hall (HA) 201

Instructor: Robert L. Watson

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Office Hours: TBA

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Instructor's Website: <http://www4.ncsu.edu/~rlwatso3>

Instructor's Course Website: http://www4.ncsu.edu/~rlwatso3/09fa_ma131.html

Textbook: Goldstein, Lay, and Schneider, *Calculus and Its Applications* (11th or 12th Ed.)

Course Description: MA 131 is a one-semester course - the first in a year-long sequence intended for students who require only two semesters of Calculus. Emphasis is placed on first order finite difference models; derivatives - limits, power rule, graphing, and optimization; exponential and logarithmic functions - growth and decay models; integrals - computation, area, total change; applications in life, management, and social sciences.

Course Prerequisites: MA 107 or 111 or placement via Level Two Achievement Test.

Calculators: A calculator is recommended, but not required. The use of most types of calculators will be allowed on exams. However, calculators which have symbolic capabilities, or which are capable of differentiation or integration (such as TI-89, TI-92) will *not* be allowed on exams.

Blue Books: Each student must submit 6 "Blue Books" for use on the exams. The blue books should be completely blank. Do not put your name or any identifying marks on them. These should be turned in to the instructor before the first exam. Failure to submit all six blue books will result in a deduction of one letter grade (10 points) from each exam (including the final). Upon turning in the blue books, all deducted points will be re-awarded.

Grading: The grade will consist of four mid-term exams (15% each), the final exam (25%), and homework/quizzes (15%). The final average will be translated into a letter grade in the following manner at the worst:

| | | | | | |
|----|----------|---|---------|----|---------|
| A+ | 98 – 100 | A | 92 – 97 | A- | 90 – 91 |
| B+ | 88 – 89 | B | 82 – 87 | B- | 80 – 81 |
| C+ | 78 – 79 | C | 72 – 77 | C- | 70 – 71 |
| D+ | 68 – 69 | D | 62 – 67 | D- | 60 – 61 |
| - | | F | 0 – 59 | - | |

Hence, if your final average is 89, you will be guaranteed at least a "B+". Do not assume grades automatically round up (e.g. 89.6 is an "A-"). For cases where you are "close" to the next letter grade, your Homework, Attendance, and improvements demonstrated on the final exam will be used to determine whether you've earned the higher or lower grade.

Attendance: Attendance will be taken before each class and factored into your grade. Good attendance will result in the lowest exam being dropped. (In this case, the three best exams count 20% each). There is no official penalty for poor attendance. By the start of the third class a seating chart will be established and posted outside the room. It is your responsibility to find your seat. Attendance is taken according to the chart. If you are not in your seat at the time attendance is taken, you will be marked absent. Leaving early will also count as an absence. A record consisting of at most three classes is considered "good" and is the requirement for the bonus. Additional bonuses may be given at the discretion of the instructor.

Homework and Quizzes: WebAssign will be utilized for most graded homework. It is your responsibility to establish your WebAssign access and keep up with the due dates. There are no extensions for WebAssign homework. Occasional quizzes (announced, unannounced, or take-home variety) will be factored into the average of WebAssign scores to make up the homework/quizzes grade. Additional problems will be assigned after each class and posted to the course website. These problems are not handed in nor graded, but will cover some topics WebAssign questions do not.

Mid-Term Exams: Exams are similar in nature to WebAssign homework, suggested problems, examples from class, and quizzes. There are four mid-term exams. Their dates are Monday, 14 September. Monday, 5 October. Monday, 2 November, and Monday, 23 November.

Test make-up policy is in accordance with University policy. This can be found at:

http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/academic_affairs/pols_regs/REG205.00.4.php.

All anticipated absences must be excused in advance of the exam date, including university duties or trips (with appropriate certification by faculty/staff), required court attendances (certified by Clerk of Court), or religious observances (certified by Department of Parent and Family Services - 919 – 515 – 2441). Emergency absences must be reported within one week of returning to class and must be appropriately documented (illness by attending physician, or family emergencies by Parent and Family Services).

Students who miss an exam and have a university approved excuse must request a makeup exam and submit all appropriate documentation.

If you feel an error was made in the grading of your exam, present and explain the error, in writing, on the outside of the exam. You must re-submit the exam to the instructor within three days.

Academic Integrity: University regulations on academic integrity must be adhered to (i.e. no cheating, plagiarizing). Talking during tests is not permitted. Disrupting an exam will merit a score of 0. If a student is cheating, the matter will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Accommodations: Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with verifiable disabilities. In order to take advantage of available accommodations, students must register with Disability Services for Students at 1900 Student Health Center, Campus Box 7509, 515 – 7633. For more information on NC State's policy on working with students with disabilities, please see the Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities Regulation (REG02.20.1) Students must have appropriate documentation from Disability Services (<http://www.ncsu.edu/dss/>) and meet with me to discuss accommodations prior to a test or quiz date.

Expectations: Each student is expected to be attentive in lectures and is encouraged to participate by asking and answering questions. Please leave newspapers, walkmans, laptop computers, and other homework outside of class or in your bookbag. Turn off all cell phones and beepers during class! You should have your book, a calculator, paper, and pen/pencil to each class.

Because learning mathematics involves a series of prerequisites, it is crucial that you catch up whenever you feel you are behind. Communication with your instructor is essential to success. I am here to help you learn mathematics, so please make use of my office hours, TAs and tutors and the various other resources the department offers. The Multi-Media Center has video taped lectures for MA131, along with limited tutoring and computer assisted tutorials. Feel free to email or contact me if you have concerns later in the semester.

H1N1 Special Note If you are ill with symptoms of H1N1 influenza (i.e. fever over 100, sore throat, cough, stuffy or runny nose, fatigue, headache, body aches, vomiting and diarrhea) please do not come to class. Instead, immediately contact your medical provider or Student Health Services (515-7107) for advice or to arrange an appointment.

If you are diagnosed with H1N1, please inform your instructor immediately. You will be required be isolated away from class for up to 7 days or 24 hours after symptoms subside, whichever is longest.