

Math 151: Calculus 1

Fall 2006

Section Syllabus

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Office Hours: Monday, 1:30–2:30; Wednesday, 9:00–10:00; Friday 1:00–2:00
and by appointment.

Drop-ins are welcome, as long as I happen to be free.

Course Web Page: <http://www.smcm.edu/users/sgoldstine/Math151f06.html>
PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS **NOT** ON BLACKBOARD.

TA: Rachel Johns

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Course Resources

This is a fast-paced course, and listening to the lecture will not be enough to ensure your success in it. Please make use of as many of the following resources as benefit you.

- **Your course notes.** The lectures take up fewer than four each week, and there is a lot of material to fit into them. Looking back over the notes you take in lecture will give you a chance to see the material again after you have had some time to assimilate it.
- **The homework.** Homework is designed to develop your understanding of the material and to help you prepare for the exams, not merely to give us something else to grade.
- **The textbook.** Your text is more than just a source of homework. It often explains the mathematics differently than I do, and you may find its explanation clearer than mine.
You may also find the odd answers in the back of the textbook useful. If you are not sure whether the assigned homework has given you enough practice, try some of the related odd problems, then check your answers in the back.

- **Me.** If you have any questions about the course or your progress in it, come to my office hours, make an appointment by email or phone, or come by my office (though in the last case I do not guarantee that I will be available). You do not need to have a specific question about a homework or exam problem. There is a tremendous difference between attending my lectures and talking to me one-on-one.

Your TA. Each week that there is no exam in the evening, your TA holds a review section. Get as much out of this as you can by looking over your course notes and homework before you arrive so that you can better ask questions and engage in answers.

- **Your classmates.** Many people benefit from studying the material and working on the homework with peers, and I strongly recommend that you try this to see if you are one of them. However, please see the remarks on Intellectual Responsibility below.

About the Student Code of Rights and Responsibilities

Exams. Your work must be entirely your own, so no looking at other people's papers, no talking to each other or passing signals, no outside help whatsoever. Unless I *explicitly* allow other aids, you are only allowed whatever implements you need to read and write.

Homework. As mentioned in the Course Resources, you may work together with other students on homework. However, the work must be your own, even if you received substantial input from others. The following ground rules should clarify this.

- Working together does not mean that one of you does the first half of the homework set and the other does the second. Everyone should work on every problem.
- Each student must hand in his or her own problem set. You may not hand in a single packet as the work of multiple people.
- Each student must write up each problem *in his or her own words*. Working together means discussing the problems. Copying someone else's solution—even when the source *doesn't mind*—is plagiarism and a violation of intellectual responsibility.

If you cannot solve a problem, and then your friend tells you a solution, it may be tempting to simply copy what your friend wrote. That would be *bad*. Instead, it is perfectly fine to have your friend explain his or her solution to you, even showing you the written work, before you go and write up your own solution *yourself*.

- Here's a good rule of thumb. At the very least, you should understand what you wrote. If you can't explain (to me, say) what the things you wrote actually mean, then you're on shaky ground.

Keep in mind that even if it were not a violation of student responsibility, it would still be a bad idea to copy someone else's homework solutions. Seeing or even transcribing a solution to a problem is very different than arriving at a solution by yourself or in a group, and is even different than taking someone else's idea and reformulating it for yourself. The first may seem like it prepares you for your exams and future courses, but trust me, it doesn't.

If you still have questions about what agrees or does not agree with the precepts of intellectual responsibility in this course, feel free to talk to me about it.

Assessment

Class Participation

You are expected to attend the class meetings. Missing a handful of classes for excused activities, illnesses, or personal reasons is acceptable, but if you regularly skip class it will be reflected in your class participation grade. In addition, when we hold group exercises in class, you need to take an active role in your group.

Homework

Homework assignments will be due in class on Fridays.

The homework grader is a fellow undergraduate who has a lot of other work, just like you. Therefore, the following policy is in effect:

*Any homework that is handed in between the class it is due and the following class will have its grade reduced by 20%. Any homework that is handed in between that class and the following class will have its grade reduced by 40%. **No homework will be accepted more than two class meeting after it is due.***

Exams

We will have three evening midterms and a final exam.

Calculators are not permitted in any exams.

*Barring an incapacitating illness, religious conflict, or other such obstacle, there are **no excuses** for missing an exam.* If you do have such a conflict, please let me know as soon as humanly possible.

Exam Dates

Midterm I	Wednesday, September 27
Midterm II	Wednesday, October 25
Midterm III	Wednesday, November 29
Final Exam	Wednesday, December 13

Grading

Class Participation	5%
Homework	15%
Midterm I	20%
Midterm II	20%
Midterm III	20%
Final	25%
Total	105%

The item above *other than class participation* that most hurts your grade will have its weight diminished by 5% of the course grade, to give a total of 100%. This means that if your homework pulls your grade down, it will be given 2/3 of the usual weight, if a midterm score pulls your grade down, it will be given 3/4 of the usual weight, and if the final exam pulls your grade down, it will be given 4/5 of the usual weight.