

MTH 244: Differential Equations

Section 0001 – Spring 2017

- Instructor:** Dr. Vasilije Perovic
- Email:** perovic@uri.edu (*preferred way of communication*)
- Email Policy:** The **only** address that should be used for communication is the one associated with your URI account.
- Office:** Lippitt Hall, 200B ☎ (401) 874-4463
- Office Hours:** **Tue: 3:30pm – 4:30pm;** **Wed: 10:00am – 12:00pm;** **Thur: 3:30pm – 4:30pm.**
You may also see me at other times by arrangement.
- Classroom:** Pastore Hall 122; Tue/Thur: 11:00am – 12:15pm.
- Class Website:** This course will use **SAKAI** which should be checked regularly for announcements, grades, updates, lecture notes, etc! You might also find the following website helpful
http://math.uri.edu/~perovic/Teaching/Spring2017/MTH244_Spr17.html
- Prerequisite:** Calculus II (MTH 142) or equivalent is **required**. Multivariable Calculus (MTH 243) is recommended.
- Textbook:** Stanley Farlow, *An Introduction to Differential Equations and Their Applications*, DOVER Publications, 1994 (or 2006 reprint). Any supplemental material will be posted on SAKAI.

Bring the textbook to each class, since we will refer to it frequently. It is essential to read the text regularly, and read material before we cover it in class!

Course Description: MTH 244 is the first course in Ordinary Differential Equations. We will study mathematical techniques involving differential equations used in the analysis of physical and biological phenomena. Emphasis is placed on the use of established methods, rather than rigorous foundations. We shall emphasize those methods that are capable of broad applications and that can be extended to various problems. The methods to be discussed include not only elementary analytical techniques that lead to exact solutions of certain classes of problems, but also include approximations based on numerical algorithms or series expansions, as well as qualitative or geometric methods.

Syllabus: We will cover *selected* sections from Chapters 1–5 of our textbook. Time permitting*, we will include some topics from Chapter 6.

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes: By the end of the semester, students will be able to use numerical, graphical, and analytic techniques to analyze and/or solve scalar (systems of*) differential equations, and to apply these concepts in the study of basic mathematical models.

Calculators: A graphing calculator is recommended and you may use it for homework and *some* quizzes and exams. Note that a majority of problems will not require using calculators and you should **not rely** on it!

Suggested Problems: Regularly assigned, but not collected or graded. Do problems promptly so that you establish a baseline for your understanding of the material. By default, *all solutions must include reasoning expressed in complete sentences*. Suggested problems, together with the material presented during lectures, will be the main sources for problems on quizzes and exams.

Video Lectures/Notes: In case our class is canceled due to inclement weather or any other reason, I might post a link on SAKAI to a video lecture (resp., handout) that you will be responsible for watching (resp., reading).

General Advice: In higher level math classes, the *concepts* are as important as the *computations*. To master the concepts, you will have to read and reread the text carefully. Effort is expected outside of class to keep up with the material. A general rule of thumb is to work at least two to three hours on the course outside the classroom for each hour of class. You are encouraged to form study groups. Talking about mathematics, and critiquing each other's solutions is a very effective way to learn the subject.

Attendance: Regular, on-time attendance is expected! Attendance will be taken regularly. Should you miss class, your first step should be to get notes from a reliable fellow student.

Grading, Exams, and Quizzes: The course grade will be based on **quizzes**, **review-quizzes**, **project(s)**, two **in-class exams**, and a **final exam**, weighted as follows:

Quizzes	20%	
Review-quizzes	4%	
Projects	6%	
Exams (2)	40%	(20% each)
Final Exam	30%	(Thursday, May 4, 8am - 11am)

Quizzes will be either in-class, typically every other Thursday, or will be take-home. The lowest quiz score will be dropped, and so **no make-up quizzes** will be given for any reason. You will be notified at least two class periods in advance to having an in-class quiz. **Review quizzes** will always be take-home and their purpose is to motivate you to review the prerequisite material. There will be approximately four review-quizzes. **Projects** will be comprised of pencil-paper and Mathematica-related problems whose detailed descriptions will be announced later in the semester.

A *tentative* schedule for the **in-class exams** is:

Exam 1: March 2 (Thursday)

Exam 2: April 13 (Thursday)

Makeup exams will be permitted *only* in those cases when a student documents a *genuine medical or personal emergency*. In such a case you must notify instructor of your emergency within 24 hours of the day of the exam.

Letter grades for the course will be determined by considering your overall weighted percentage according to the following scale:

A: 93.00% and above		A-: 90.00% – 92.99%
B+: 87.00% - 89.99%	B: 83.00% – 86.99%	B-: 80.00% – 82.99%
C+: 77.00% – 79.99%	C: 73.00% – 76.99%	C-: 70.00% – 72.99%
D+: 67.00% – 69.99%	D: 60.00% – 66.99%	
F: 59.99% and below		

Any questions or concerns regarding your course grade should be discussed well before the final exam. Once the final exam is administered, your grade is final and no makeups or extra credit will be offered. Additionally, incompletes will not be given to students who are dissatisfied with their grades at the end of the semester, and grades of NW will not be given to students who have completed even a single assignment.

Incomplete Grade: University of Rhode Island regulations concerning incomplete grades will be strictly followed (see University Manual sections [8.53.20](#) – [8.53.21](#) for details). Note that a student must be passing the course before an incomplete is even an option.

Important Dates: Please pay close attention to the following dates:

February 13 – Last day to DROP courses with NO TRANSCRIPT DESIGNATION.

March 6 – Last day for students to DROP course with “W” designation.

March 13 – 19 – Spring break (classes do not meet).

April 27 – Last day of instruction *for this class* !

May 4 – Final exam *for this class* !

Accommodations: Any student with a documented disability (e.g., physical, learning, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations should contact me as soon as possible. At the beginning of the semester students should contact Disability Services for Students Office at 330 Memorial Union, (401) 874-2098, <http://www.uri.edu/disability/dss/>.

Academic Integrity: You are responsible for making yourself aware of and understanding the policies and procedures in the University Manual that pertain to Academic Honesty. These policies include cheating, fabrication, falsification and forgery, multiple submission, plagiarism, complicity and computer misuse. Further information can be found in the UNIVERSITY MANUAL sections on Plagiarism and Cheating at

<http://web.uri.edu/manual/chapter-8/chapter-8-2/>