

MATHEMATICS 241—001
FALL, 2014

Instructor: Stephen S. Shatz
Office/Office Hours: 4N20 DRL/Wednesday 1PM—3PM
Teaching Assistant/Office: Chris Hays/ DRL 4N34
Text/Lectures: Applied PDE with Fourier Series and B'ndry Value Probs. 5th Ed./MWF at 11AM DRL A5
Recitations: 202 Tues 9:30—10:30 204 Thurs 9:30-10:30
ROOMS FOR RECITATIONS: Both meet in room 3N6 DRL

How the course is run: I will lecture MWF at 11AM, attendance at lectures is strongly encouraged, but attendance is not taken. The structure of the lectures is that I will present some explanations of the material we are encountering and do representative problems from the material under discussion. I will explain how to do these problems, how best to look at the material and I will give suggestions for mastering the material. Most students do not want “theory” in the class, so I will not (as a rule) do derivations or theory, but will explain how the methods arise and how they work. I will be happy to give further, more theoretical, explanations to anyone who wants these and you can see me outside of class where we'll discuss them.

In recitations, you will work in small groups on similar problems and present your solutions or partial solutions at the board. These sessions are for asking questions, working out problems, working out misunderstandings and difficulties, in a small group with the TA for guidance and help. The idea is to learn the material by practice without worrying about whether the answer is partially or completely correct. Further, one learns to work together with others, to learn together and to help one another. The important part of this is to **participate**. **Attendance at your weekly recitation is absolutely mandatory; it is the most important part of the course.** How you perform in recitation (not whether you always get correct answers) is worth 20% of your grade—this is judged by the TA. Again, **participation, not necessarily correct answers, is the key to a good score in the recitation part of the course. There are no quizzes in recitations.**

Exams/HW: There will be two hour exams; they will take place during a regularly scheduled class period. The dates are: October 8, November 12. Each takes place at 11AM SHARP in room DRL A5. I will drop your worst grade; that is, only one of the two exams will count—your best one. I then double this best score and the result is 40% of your grade. There is a common final in the course, it counts 40% of your grade. Sometimes personal matters (illness, family crisis, religious obligation, etc.) will intrude on attending class, attending recitation, or taking a scheduled exam. For class, as attendance is not required, no explanation is necessary, not even a prior notification. For recitation, two such absences will be allowed (try to make them non-consecutive if at all possible) during the semester and, again, no notice is necessary. But, if you miss an hour exam, that hour exam is your worst one and will not be counted; please make sure not to miss the other. **No make-up hour exams will be offered.** (NEXT)

You may not miss the final without a written excuse, presented to me **BEFORE** the date of the common final. If I approve your absence, then you must take the department's make-up final, given during January, 2015 (date to be determined). You will get a *temporary* F if you miss the regular final; when you take the January 2015 make-up, your grade will be changed to its proper value right after the make-up is graded. **No grade of incomplete (I) will be given.**

As for HW, it will be assigned weekly to be discussed (in participatory groups as above) in the next week's recitation. I will assign HW on Mondays by e-mail to the class; if you do your HW regularly, you'll be well-prepared for all the exams. (Please understand that publishers change around the order of problems from one edition to the next, I have the 5th Edition as the text assigned by the Department. Make sure your book is the 5th Edition, also.) You will NOT turn in HW, and there is no grade for your written HW. The HW is there to help you learn the material it is not there as a grading tool. In order to get the benefit from the HW, you should do it assiduously even if you can't get all the problems solved. Then, in recitation, you get a chance to show where you're stuck and see how to proceed to a solution. This means you must *participate*.

Your grade: Many students want to know how the grade distribution is "curved". Of course, if you look at this objectively, it amounts to my giving you a blank check—so many of these, so many of those, etc. You must trust me to give you the best grade possible that your performance warrants.

Here is how your grade is determined: There are three components: 1) Your doubled best hour exam, 2) Your score on the final exam, 3) Your recitation grade determined by your TA. They are weighted 40%, 40%, 20%, but in order that I give you the best grade possible, I do the following: If your hour exam total is better than your final, I weight the hour exam total 50% and the final 30%. If your final is better than your hour exam total, I weight the final 50% and your hour exam total 30%. So you see that I try to give you the best grade you have earned and try to minimize bad days (we all have those). You see, of course, that, because of this effort to give you the best grade, no letter grade makes any sense at any time in the course except at the very end when all the data are in and all the point scores are determined. There is no fixed percentage of A's, B's, etc., those percentages will be determined at the very end when I see how the entire class has done on all components.

These are our rules, I will not change them and I will abide by them as you must also do. I wish you good luck, I expect you to work hard. Again, please keep up with me and try not to fall behind.