

MATH 115 Fall 2019
Calculus I

Instructor: James Phillips

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Office: Clapp 308

Office Hours: Tuesday 1:00 - 3:00; Wednesday 1:00 - 2:00
and by appointment

Textbook: Stewart, *Calculus: Concepts and Contexts*, 4th ed.

General Policy: Students are expected to attend class and, in the event of an absence, are responsible for making up any missed material or work. Students are also encouraged to participate and to ask questions during class. Calculus can be difficult, but it is learned best through practice; I will be happy to work with students in class and in office hours to ensure the best understanding of the subject. In the end, the skills we will stress are *critical thinking* and *problem-solving*. Calculators are permitted on neither quizzes nor tests.

Homework: Online homework will be assigned weekly on Webwork. It will be assigned on Thursday and due the following Wednesday. Since calculators are not permitted on quizzes and tests, I encourage you to use them sparingly on the homework, but computations will sometimes require them. Late homework will not be accepted. The lowest homework grade will, however, be dropped. We will also have written homework assignments due approximately every two weeks; these will be assigned on Friday and due on the corresponding Thursday.

Quizzes: Each week during the Wednesday meeting, we will have a closed-book quiz covering the previous week's material. These serve the dual purpose of both preparation for working in a test environment and practice in effectively writing and communicating your ideas in calculus. Quizzes may not be made up; rather, I will calculate your grade using only your ten highest scores.

Exams: There will be three midterms and a final. The three midterms will be on Thursday, October 3, Monday, October 28, and Thursday, December 5, with the latter two taking place during the evening. The final exam is self-scheduled during finals week.

Exams will be graded using a mastery-based grading system: your successes in demonstrating mastery of 15 concepts and techniques contributes to your course grade. You will have several chances to achieve mastery, so that if you don't succeed on the first exam but you are able to show that you have mastered the objective by the end of the course, only your most recent attempt counts. Once you have achieved mastery in a given objective, you have completed it; you do not have to redo that topic on later exams.

Grading: Quizzes and homework will comprise 25% of your total grade. Mastery on exams comprises the other 75%.

Attendance or participation do not go toward a specific grade, but can be an influence in cases of "borderline" grades. Grades will be assigned according to the following standard:

Honor Code: On homework, collaboration is expected and encouraged. You should feel free to talk to other students while you are in the process of thinking about a problem. You will need periods of concentrated individual study, but it is also helpful to spend time talking about the subject. However, solutions should be written up on your own, to gain practice and confidence in your ability to problem solve. Exams and quizzes are completed individually. Feel free to direct any questions to me.

Accommodations: If you have a disability or condition, either long-term or temporary, and need reasonable academic adjustments in this course, please contact Accessibility and Disability Resources (ADR) to get a letter outlining your accommodation needs, and submit that letter to me. You should request accommodations as early as possible in the semester, or before the semester begins, since some situations can require significant time for review and accommodation design. If you need immediate accommodations, please arrange to meet with me as soon as possible. If you are unsure but suspect you may have an undocumented need for accommodations, you are encouraged to contact (ADR). They can provide assistance including screening and referral for assessments. If the course schedule includes quiz or exam dates that conflict with your religious observances, please let me know at least one week in advance in order for us to make an alternative arrangement.

Resources: Erin Sullivan, the MATH 115 supplementary instruction leader, will run two weekly sessions and a weekly office hour. She has already mastered the course material and will be attending one section of 115 regularly to keep current on this semester. Attendance at these sessions is free and voluntary and should be a valuable resource. Drop-in tutoring, Sunday through Thursday, 7 ? 9 pm in SCI L035 is for anyone seeking help with Calculus homework. It is staffed by math majors who have already taken Calculus through Math 205 or beyond. The Math Help Room will commence in the second week of the semester.

Miscellanea: In class, please be courteous: arrive on time and stay until the end of class. Please keep cell phones and laptops off and stowed away during class; I'll let you know ahead of time if you'll be needing them. If a circumstance arises that affects your performance in the course, you should inform me *before* it influences your grade. Lectures are a good starting point, but the best understanding comes from getting your own hands dirty: give the material a look before lecture, and spend some time reviewing and practicing afterward.