

MATH 115 Spring 2020
Calculus I

Instructor: James Phillips

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Office: Clapp 308

Office Hours: Monday 1:00-2:30; Thursday 10:00 - 11:30
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. Students are also encouraged to participate and ask questions during class. Calculus can be difficult, but it is learned best through practice; I am 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.

In class, please be courteous: arrive on time and stay until in 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.

Homework: Homework will be assigned weekly. Each assignment will be posted on Friday and due the following Friday. I encourage you to use calculators sparingly on homework, but computations will sometimes require them. Late homework will not be accepted. Your lowest homework score, however, will be dropped. Homework comprises 15% of your overall grade in the course.

Classwork: The majority of the Monday and Thursday class meetings will be spent working on classwork. I will occasionally collect the classwork for a grade. I will collect only one randomly chosen classwork sheet from each group and each member of the group will receive that sheet's grade. Classwork comprises 10% of your overall grade in the course.

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. If there are fewer than ten quizzes, I will drop your lowest quiz score. Your quiz average comprises 15% of your overall grade in the course.

Exams: There will be three midterms and a final. The three midterms will take place during the Wednesday class periods on February 26, March 18, and April 22. The final exam is self-scheduled during finals week.

Exams will be graded using a mastery-based grading system. Your overall exam score in the course will be determined by your ability to demonstrate mastery of 14 topics

throughout the semester. For the majority of the topics, you will have several opportunities to demonstrate mastery: once a topic appears on an exam, it will appear on each subsequent exam. When the time comes to calculate grades, I will use the highest score you have earned on each topic, regardless of the test on which you earned it. Once you have demonstrated mastery of a topic, you are exempt from having to complete that topic on subsequent exams.

Your exam score comprises 60% of your overall grade in the course.

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: Maryam Muhammad, 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, 7:00 - 9:00 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.