Math 141, Calculus of a Single Variable  
Section 4, 1:10–2:00pm, MTRF  
Spring 2007

This is the first of a two-semester calculus sequence. You should have good algebra skills and knowledge of the basic functions of mathematics (powers, rational functions, trig functions, logs, and exponential functions).

Instructor: Robert Messer  
Office hours: 11:10am–noon, MTRF and by appointment  
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Web site: http://www.albion.edu/math/ram/courses/math141/  

We will cover most of the topics in Chapters 0 through Section 5.1. You will also need a graphing calculator. A TI-83+ or TI-84+ is recommended although other brands and models may be adequate.

Grading:  
Exam 1 Chapters 1, 2 80 pts  
Exam 2 Chapters 2, 3 80 pts  
Exam 3 Chapters 3, 4 80 pts  
Final Exam comprehensive 120 pts  
5 computer lab reports (5 pts each) 25 pts  
weekly homework (5 to 10 pts each) 70 pts (approximately)  
Gateway Quizzes and classroom participation 35 pts (approximately)  
total 490 pts (approximately)

Grading scale:  
4.0 95%  
3.7 90% 2.7 75% 1.7 60%  
3.3 85% 2.3 70% 1.3 55%  
3.0 80% 2.0 65% 1.0 50%

You are expected to attend all classes. You are responsible for all material covered in class and for turning in assignments on the due dates. You will not be able to re-create the experience of class participation on your own.

No early, late, or make-up exams will be given. If you miss an exam due to a death in your immediate family or a serious medical problem beyond your control, I will estimate your grade for the material on that exam based on your final exam and other work in the course. To pass the course, you will also need to demonstrate your mastery of algebra and functions on one Gateway Quiz and the techniques of differentiation on a second Gateway Quiz.

Expect to spend a minimum of eight hours per week outside of class in order to appreciate the excitement, beauty, and usefulness of calculus. After each class, you will need to spend about an hour reviewing your notes and reading the corresponding section in the text. The daily homework set will then typically take an additional hour. As you work on the exercises, think about how the problems and possible modifications fit into the general theory. Finally, look over the section for the material to be covered in the next class. You will need to spend additional time reviewing and mastering the techniques, theory, and applications of the material in preparation for exams.

Take charge of your mathematical education. Mathematics is a subject that requires work, practice, and concentration. The rewards are great, but you will not be able to cover everything the night before an exam. You may have to scale back your participation in the anticurriculum.