

MATH 181 - WeBWorK and Homework Journal

Guidelines and Expectations

Overview. For each section in this course you will complete a WeBWorK assignments for a grade. WeBWorK is an online homework system that is designed to provide you with immediate feedback on the correctness of your work. WeBWorK serves the purpose of providing immediate feedback, providing accountability, and supporting your learning in the course.

While there will be a short demonstration in class, you'll also be expected to learn to navigate WeBWorK on your own. Doing so is straightforward. You access WeBWorK through our course Canvas homepage by clicking on the WeBWorK link in the menu on the left-hand side. The following link offers a video that supports learning more about how to navigate WeBWorK. The video is from an instructor at another institution, so you can skip the first minute where it teaches how to log in.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nqv2dk70IFw>

Homework Journal Expectations. Here are the specific details that you must adhere to for the Homework Journal:

- Start each new WeBWorK assignment on a new page. Have every page of the journal labeled at the top with the date the problems on that page are due.
- Clearly enumerate each problem and provide a brief summary of the problem statement. That is, it is not sufficient to simply write “#3.” Rather, you should write (for example)

“#3. Let $f(x) = 3e^{5x^2}$. Find an equation for the tangent line at the point where $x = 1$.”

This is so that (a) you are certain you've read the problem statement carefully, and (b) you have a record of the statement in your work to return to when studying for exams.

- Provide sufficient work to demonstrate the full reasoning behind your solution. The work that leads to an answer is *even more important than* the final answer itself. This is important not only for your own understanding, but also for future studying for exams.
- Clearly circle your answer that you input in WeBWorK. Indicate clearly on your paper if the answer was accepted as correct or not in WeBWorK but putting a checkmark (correct) next to your circled answer.

Your electronic work in WeBWorK will be graded solely on correctness and count for 14% of your semester grade. Your written WeBWorK journal will count 6% of your semester grade.

Homework Journal Assessment.

- I will collect homework journals from each student in the class at each of the three in-class exams.
- I will choose four problems at random from your journal and assess each on a 5-point scale:
 - 5: your response is complete, easy to find and follow, and adheres to the expectations listed above.
 - 4: your response is complete, but the work is difficult to find or follow, or fails to adhere to at least one of the expectations stated above.
 - 3: your response is complete, but the work is difficult to find or follow, and fails to adhere to more than one of the expectations stated above.
 - 0: the problem was not completed.

In addition to these 4 5-point grades on 4 random problems, you will receive an overall score out of 10 points based on my impression of your WeBWorK journal. You should interpret that score of 10, 9, 8, 7, 6 as reflecting an A+, A, B, C, D scale. Thus, your journal will be graded three times during the semester, each time for a grade of 30 points. The sum total of those scores will count for 6% of your semester grade.

Additional Suggestions. You will be well-served by being organized and timely in keeping your homework journal and submitting WeBWorK assignments.

I encourage you to keep your homework journal in a 3-ring binder, using loose-leaf paper. You should view it as a way to keep yourself organized and on top of the weekly WeBWorK assignments.

I also urge you to begin working on WeBWorK problems soon after they post and to strive to complete them well in advance of the deadline. This will offer you the chance to ask questions about problems that you struggle with before the problem set closes.

The number one way to be successful in mathematics is to do a lot of problems, and to do them in a way where you strive to achieve deep, personal understanding of how the problems are solved.