

UGA's MATH 4780/6780 - Mathematical Biology

Rules of Engagement for Assignments, Spring 2013

You will be required to complete several assignments in this course. I will give each student unlimited amount of assistance, if needed.

What do I expect you to turn in? I'd like the following:

(1) Hand-written or word-processed text describing what you are doing, how you did it, and the results you got. I ask many questions, and I expect you to answer these. When I grade I will be looking to see if each question has been satisfactorily answered. Use complete sentences and make your work easy to follow.

(2) Labeled figures. Include things such as figure number, axis labels, bifurcations, types of branches (stationary or periodic), nullclines (x -nullcline or y -nullcline), and equilibrium points (what type?). In some cases I will ask for a hand-drawn figure, and this is what you should turn in. In other cases I will ask for a computer-drawn figure, when precision is required to convey the message. In other cases I won't specify.

(3) The computer code. In some cases you will use a computer program to solve the problems assigned. Include a printout of the XPP, C, JAVA, FORTRAN, etc. code that you use. If you comment it well it will help me check to see if a mistake was a major one or a minor one (the default is major, so the more you help me the better off you will be).

(4) Make it look good. Wading through disorganized and unclear work does not put me in a good mood. Ask yourself whether you would want to grade it!

(5) Non-math students are allowed to use Computer Algebra Systems (CAS). Math students are *not* allowed to use CAS. It is very easy to tell whether CAS was used. That means: show ALL your intermediate steps.

(6) Resubmit and learn. You can resubmit your homework and cut in half the penalty due to previous mistakes. WARNING: Making mistakes in resubmissions might actually lower your previous grade. Even though *I consider grades to be unimportant*, they are the most powerful catalyst at my disposal to stimulate learning, and I will use them fearlessly. I want *you* to convince me that you know.