

Elementary Differential Equations

Math 242

Instructor: Antoine Flattot, 777-5882, flattot@math.sc.edu

Lectures: T Th 2 pm - 3:15 pm, LC 115

Office Hours: T 3:30 pm - 5 pm, Th 9:15 am - 10:45 am or by appointment, LC 400D

Overview: Many of the principles, or laws, underlying the behavior of the natural world are statements or relations involving rates at which things happen. When expressed in mathematical terms, the relations are equations and the rates are derivatives. Equations containing derivatives are called differential equations. Therefore, to understand and to investigate problems involving the motion of particules, the flow of current in electric circuits, the dissipation of heat in solid objects, the propagation and detection of seismic waves, the change of populations, it is necessary to be able to solve or study differential equations. We will interesting mainly in the resolution of some particular kind of differential equations, and in the case where we are not able to solve them, we will see a numerical approach to obtain solutions.

Instructional Objectives: We will cover as much as possible of the following topics:

- (1) First order differential equations.
- (2) Numerical solutions of differential equations.
- (3) Higher order linear differential equations.
- (4) The Laplace transform.
- (5) Systems of differential equations (if time permit).

Textbook: *Differential Equations, computing and modeling*, by Edwards and Penney, Fourth Edition.

Prerequisite: Completion of Math 142 with a grade of C or better, or qualification by placement.

Grading: Your grade in this course will be based on your performance on quizzes, homeworks, three midterms exams and a final exam. The weights assigned to each of these components will be:

Quizzes & Homeworks	25%
Three midterm exams	15% each
Final exam	30%

Course grades will be determined according to the scale:

A: 90-100, B+: 85-89, B: 80-84, C+: 75-79, C: 70-74, D+: 65-69, D: 60-64, F: 0-59.

Exams: Tentative dates and topics for these exams are:

Exam 1	Thursday, February 7	Chapter 1
Exam 2	Thursday, March 27	Chapters 2 & 3
Exam 3	Tuesday, April 15	Chapter 7
Final	Saturday, May 3 - 9:00 a.m	Comprehensive

The dates of the tests will be confirmed during the class, generally the previous week. Monday February 25 is the last day to drop a course or withdraw without a grade of “WF” being recorded.

There will be no make-up exams. In case that you miss an exam because of documented reasons of illness, family emergency, or participation in a University sponsored event, and if you have contact me immediately and provide me with the documentation, then the grade of the missed exam will be substituted by the grade of the final exam.

Quizzes & Homeworks: A homework assignment (of approximately 3 or 4 problems) will be assigned each Thursday and it will be collected at the next class. A quiz assignment, consisting on a course question and/or a short exercise, will be assigned each Tuesday. **Clear work** is desired; and in the case where the argument and/or the result cannot be read, no credits will be given.

There will be **no make-up homeworks**. In case that you are unable to attend the class during the day that you turn in homework or the day of the quizz, because of a documented reason of illness, family emergency or of participation in a University sponsored event, and if you have contact me immediately and provide me with the documentation, then the grade of your missed homework or quiz will be dropped.

Attendance: Regular class attendance is important. Consistent with the USC Undergraduate Bulletin, a grade penalty may be applied to any student missing more than 4 classes.

Math Labs: The Math Labs is a free tutoring service. No appointment is necessary. See “<http://www.math.sc.edu/mathlab.html>”.

Academic Honesty: Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated in this course. You may discuss homework problems with others, but do not copy solutions from another student or from a book. Violations of this policy will be dealt with a matter consistent with University regulations.