

## ***Math 151, Spring Semester 2012***

***Instructor:*** Dr. Dave Sobecki (Please don't call me "Mr. Sobecki": one of the few benefits of going to college for 53 years is that I get to make people call me "Doctor".)

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***Course Web Page:*** <http://www.ham.muohio.edu/~sobeckdm> (Note that this is NOT a Niiikha (or however the hell it's spelled) site. There will also be a Niiikha (still don't know how to spell it) site for this course that links to my page when I get around to putting it together. But there won't be very much on Niiikha (?) - most of it is on the page listed above.) My page is a calendar, and if you click any date, a window pops up that summarizes what happened in class that day. These are not class notes - just a quick summary, along with the homework, any announcements, and links to any handouts. It's the first place you should go if for some disastrous reason, you had to miss class.

***Office Hours:*** M, W: 1:35-3:00; T, R: 10:00-11:15. Others by appointment, or you're welcome to try and stop by.

***Textbook:*** Calculus, Early Transcendentals, Single Variable Version, by James Stewart, Miami Edition. What does one do with a book? Use it to prop up a crooked table? Hit foes with it? Those both sound like find ideas, but you paid for this baby, so why not READ IT? Who knows, you might learn something!

***Some Notes on Cell Phones:*** • In an ideal world, I would ask you to leave your cell phone in your car, but in this world I might as well ask you to leave our spleen in your car. So instead, I will ask you (and beg if I have to) to turn your phone OFF before class. If there's some pending emergency and you absolutely must be reachable, at least have the courtesy to turn off the ringer.

- No, you will not be able to use the calculator on your cell phone during tests and quizzes. In spite of my youthful appearance, I assure you that I was not born yesterday. I have a really cool phone, too - I know you could

easily put a cheat sheet on your phone, or text a math geek acquaintance in a pinch.

- Speaking of texting, don't even THINK about texting during class. The thought of throwing an adult college student out of class strikes me as ridiculous, but that's what will happen if I see you texting in class. (And that's only because a sucker punch to the throat would violate my contract, and probably a variety of laws.)

**Goals of the Course:** (In order of importance!)

- 1) Make you a smarter person by exercising your ability to think, reason, understand, make connections and solve problems.
- 2) Develop your own personal answer to the question "What is calculus?".
- 3) Improve your ability to express thoughts and understanding in writing.
- 4) Eliminate forever from your vocabulary the following whine: "WAAHHHH!!! I'm no good at math! WAAHHH!"
- 5) Learn the techniques of calculus, and how they are used.

**Material We'll Cover:** Most of chapters 2 - 6. A lot of the stuff in Chapter 1 is review from precalc, so we'll only refer back to it now and again. We may skip a section or two based on time constraints. We'll cross that bridge when we come to it.

**Grading Policy:** There will be four 100 point exams, dates to be announced. There will, of course, be a comprehensive final worth 200 points during finals week. We'll have a number of 30 point quizzes - the day of the week is likely to vary, and some may be take-home. I would expect we'd have between 5 and 10 quizzes, for another 150 - 300 points or so. Other things that factor into your final grade: at least two hand-in assignments that will require the use of a graphing calculator or a computer algebra system, usually in the 40-50 point range. (NOTE: A graphing calculator is required for this course. The TI-83 or 84 is recommended.); 30 points for attendance/participation; a variety of in-class activities that are part of the new course standards; and 10% of your grade will be reserved for a homework score (see homework section below). Grades will be assigned on the classic 90-80-70-60 scale, unless there is some compelling reason to lower those cutoffs a bit. (Don't get your hopes up - it very rarely happens.)

**Homework:** The daily homework in this class will be done online, using a system called Webassign. Your book should have come with a code for webassign. If it didn't you'll have to purchase one online. This is the second year we're doing homework this way, and most of the students I talked to last year really liked it for two reasons: (1) Instant feedback. The system will tell you right away if your answer is right or wrong. (2) I'll know if you're doing your homework or not, which for most students makes them more likely to do the homework. I'll do a quick run-through of webassign in class either today or tomorrow depending on timing. Here's how you'll be scored: you will get credit for completing any assignment where your score is at least 80%, and you will not get credit for any assignment where your score is less than 80%. End of story. I'll be setting the system so that you can try each question 20 times, so with persistence, you can get any question right, so this will separate out the people that are trying from those that are not.

This is the code you will need to enroll yourself in this course when you get signed up for webassign:

**muohio 4127 1705**

**Attendance Policy:** Very simple: come to class. If you're not mature enough to come to class on a regular basis, do both of us a favor and drop this course now. It'll save you the agony of getting a really poor grade, and save me the agony of having to give you a really poor grade. I had to turn away a number of people that wanted in the class because of capacity, so more than ever I will not tolerate people that choose to waste their seat by leaving it empty. The only person in the room right now that can miss class regularly and not have it affect their grade is me, and I'll be here every day 'cause I get paid. It really shouldn't be an issue at this level - I assume that if you're smart enough to take calculus at an outstanding institution like Miami, you're also smart enough to realize that coming to class is a pretty freaking good idea. I will not be taking attendance formally, but I'll know if you're in class or not, and missing class regularly will destroy your attendance/participation grade. My philosophy is simple: if you come to class every day and show me that you care about your grade, I will do everything I can to help you succeed. But if you miss class, fail to study or turn in assignments, and in general indicate that you don't care how well you do, then I guarantee that I REALLY don't care how you do, and to say the least, that is unlikely to translate into success.

**Makeup Policy:** Makeup for girls is recommended, but not required. Makeup for dudes is not recommended, but is acceptable. But seriously folks, excuses come in two flavors: good and bad.

Examples: Good Excuse: I was in the emergency room with a gunshot wound to the abdomen.

Good Excuse: I will be in Sweden accepting the Nobel prize.

Bad Excuse: I was out pretty damn late last night.

Bad Excuse: I have the sniffles.

If you need to miss an exam, you better have a GOOD excuse with documentation (i.e. a gunshot wound, the Nobel prize). If at all possible, let me know in advance. Worst case, notify me as soon as humanly possible after the test. If you know that you won't be able to make it to a test, we can discuss having you take it a bit early. **IMPORTANT: If you miss a test and don't notify me, then just show up the next day and ask to take the test, I'm telling you in advance that the answer will be "No".** As for quizzes, I'm willing to discuss makeup quizzes on a very limited basis, but again, make sure you talk to me in advance.

**A Note On Tests:** Each test will consist of two parts: an in-class portion, usually about 70 - 75 points, and a take-home portion. For the most part, on the take-home portion I'll be asking more in depth questions that usually require you to explain your understanding in essay form. You should start preparing for this from the first day of class! Make sure you try to understand what's going on, as opposed to just memorizing formulas and procedures. If that's all you do, you'll be ignoring the first three goals of the course - that would be bad.

**Withdrawal Policy:** The old WP and WF grades no longer exist at Miami University. Classes can be dropped during the first three weeks of the semester with no grade at all (Deadline Sept. 14). Between the third and ninth weeks, a course can be dropped with a grade of "W", with NO effect on the GPA (Deadline Oct. 12). After the ninth week, classes cannot be dropped without submitting a petition to the University Committee of Advisors. Needless to say, you'll need a pretty good reason to be approved, not "Uhhhhh, I'm like....doing bad or something."

**Short Motivational Speech:** This is not an easy course, and I'm not an easy grader. I will try really hard to teach this class in terms that the average student can understand. In return, I have high expectations of you. For most people this class will definitely require a lot of work. But that's what makes it worthwhile. Nobody ever got RIPPED from lifting really, really light weights... you are in college to get smarter, and the best way to do that is to challenge your brain. If you feel like you're a little shaky with algebraic manipulations, the best thing you can do for yourself is work REALLY hard at understanding the concepts, since your grade will be based on both being able to solve calculus problems, and being able to explain the underlying concepts. But above all else, keep in mind that YOU CAN DO THIS. If not, you wouldn't be here. But you have to work hard right from the very beginning, because falling behind early in a math course is the path to misery and ruin.

I can promise you this: if you don't do the homework regularly, you will NOT do well in this class period. In fact, most of you will fail, but if you're naturally very smart you might be able to get a C. But guess what? If you're smart enough to get a C without keeping up with the homework, you're an absolute clown and don't belong in college if you accept that C rather than the A that you could get. Knucklehead.

I'll do my best to keep it interesting if you do your best to keep up. Please don't let my casual classroom style fool you into thinking that you don't need to take class seriously. I take this very seriously even if I joke around a lot, and I can promise you that I will assign the grade you've earned, not a grade that could be construed as an early Christmas present.