

Math 121
Calculus I
Fall 2008

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Office Hours:
M Tu W Th 1:30 – 3:00
or by arrangement

Textbook: Larson, Hostetler, & Edwards, *Calculus (Early Transcendental Functions)*, 4th edition

Grades

Course grades will be determined on the basis of 3 midterm exams, a final exam, daily quizzes, and homework assignments. All graded activities will be combined into a percentage of possible points (details available if you wish) that will be converted to a course grade on a scale that is at least as generous as the following:

95 – 100	A	80 – 82	B–	63 – 65	D+
91 – 95	A–	78 – 80	C+	< 63	D, D–, or F (depending in part on a subjective assessment of your work)
89 – 91	B+	67 – 78	C		
82 – 89	B	65 – 67	C–		

Final exam is Tuesday, December 16, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m., or Wednesday, December 17, 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. You may take the exam at either time. *Note that both times are late in exam week.* Please make travel plans accordingly.

Midterm exams are in class on Fridays: September 19, October 17, and November 14.

Quizzes will be given in the first few minutes of *almost every* class. They will typically consist of one short question on very recent material. Your three lowest quiz grades will be dropped.

Homework assignments will be given almost every week, due on Friday. Special homework projects, sometimes involving group work, will be assigned occasionally.

Calculators You are welcome to use a calculator, if you wish, but one is not required. A basic calculator may be useful for some of the homework problems.

Moodle

Electronic copies of many course documents and files (handouts, homework assignments, etc.) will be accessible in our course site on Moodle, on the Rhodes website. (Very possibly this means absolutely nothing to you. Don't worry, I will explain.)

(Over)

Cell phones: OFF.

Tutors for Math 121 are available at the Math Support Center (upstairs in Ohlendorf) every weeknight, Sunday through Thursday, 7 – 9 p.m.

Study groups The Math Support Center is also helping to organize study groups for this course. See the study-group handout.

Policy on homework collaboration

Working together with other people is a great way to learn mathematics. I encourage you to work together on the homework, if you find that it helps you to learn. However, homework for this course is also graded, as part of your final course grade. Each student must write up his or her own homework solutions. By handing in homework solutions to be graded, you are promising that you took part in solving the problems, and that you are not just copying someone else's work. Handing in homework to be graded when you did not participate in solving the problems is a violation of the Honor Code.

For group assignments, each group will turn in a single project or solution. All members of the group must participate in creating the group's final product.

Make-up Exams and Extensions on Assignments

Extensions on the due dates of assignments and individual re-scheduling of exams will be granted only for the following reasons:

- Serious and verifiable illness or medical emergency
- Participation in an *official* Rhodes College activity (e.g., course field trip, sports team travel)
- Religious holidays
- Major life event (such as birth, wedding, death) – your own or a close family member
- Other genuine emergency that is beyond your control

Notice that this is an extensive list. It does not, however, include situations in which the timing of an exam or assignment is simply inconvenient for you. In particular, there will be no accommodation for ordinary travel arrangements before or after college breaks.

If you wish to request an extension or re-scheduling because of a situation which can be known ahead of time, it is your responsibility to make arrangements in advance. Permission might not be given after the fact. You may be asked to make your request in writing.

In all cases, your instructor is the final judge of whether an accommodation is warranted.

About the course

Course goals: To develop an understanding of the theory and applications of differential calculus.
To introduce the basic concepts of indefinite and definite integrals.

Prerequisite: The course assumes a solid background in high school algebra. It does **not** assume any previous experience with calculus. If you have seen some calculus before, some of the topics may seem repetitive, but you should not assume that it will automatically be easy for that reason. (If you have studied most of the topics in this course before, talk to the instructor about whether this is the right course for you.)

This course is intended to lead you to a thorough understanding of differential calculus and its applications. Its approach follows what is sometimes called the *Rule of Four*: Every topic is presented *algebraically, numerically, in graphs, and in words*. You will be asked to engage the course material from all of these points of view.

The style of this course may be different from your experience in previous math courses – even if you have studied some calculus in the past. Calculus is more than just rules for turning algebraic formulas into other algebraic formulas. Indeed, with the advances in current technology, much of the algebraic side of the subject can be done automatically by computers. Real understanding comes in knowing what the formulas tell you, and how to apply them in real and diverse situations.