Differential Equations I Syllabus (2010 Spring)

General information:

Class: Differential Equations I, MAT 3613:01S
Instructor: Dr. Fengxin Chen
Class Time and Classroom: TR 12:30-1:45 pm, MS 2.02.52
Office and Phone: SB 4.02.58, 458-5696
E-mail address: Fengxin.Chen@utsa.edu
Class page in internet: http://zeta.math.utsa.edu/~yrz223/courses/differential_1.html
Office hour: TR 11:00 am-11:50 am or by appointment
Prerequisite: MAT 2233, or Equivalent.


Objectives: Differential Equations I is an introductory course to basic notions of differential equations, solution of first-order equations and linear equations with constant coefficients, nth-order initial value problems, and power series solutions of differential equations. Students are expected to demonstrate proficiency to solve basic differential equation and grasp basic theory of ODE.

Reading: Reading in advance of the class is required. Quizzes will be given to check if students read in advance. After reading, students are encouraged to do homework to find problems and are welcome to discuss questions in class. READ each section before it is presented in class and then read it again before doing the homework problems. If there is confusion, seek for help as soon as possible. Falling behind always makes study harder and makes it difficult to catch up.

Attendance: Attendance to the lectures is mandatory. It is crucial for several reasons. First and foremost, you will gain a better understanding of the material by coming to class. Second, homework will be discussed in class whenever is needed. In addition, changes in the syllabus or schedule may occur and will be announced only in class. Students are expected to arrive on time for class and lab and to stay for the duration of the class time.

Class Policy: Your grade will be based on homework and quizzes (10%) and 2 exams (45% each). Homework will be assigned daily and students are expected to finish it before the next class day. Quizzes will be given randomly in class and will cover your reading assignment (see above) and your homework problems. There will be no late or make-up work accepted for homework, quizzes or exams, even if you add the class late, get sick, etc. However, total of 3 lowest quiz/homework scores will be dropped for every student. If you must be gone on an exam day, make arrangements with me at least two days before the exam date so that you can take it before you leave.

Grading Scales (by percentage):

A 90—100   B 80—89   C 70—79   D 60—69

Save all of your graded homework and exams. We will use this scale to determine your final letter grade, and curving of grades is hardly possible. But if your total grades is on the border line of two levels, your extra points in tests and your performance in class will be considered for a possible promotion to the next level.

Math Lab: You can go to math tutorial lab for help for your homework. There are TAs available.