Math 120R-017 Preparation for Calculus
Course Policy

Instructor: Abhishek Bhattacharya

Fall 2007

Important Please check your email and my webpage regularly for announcements, homeworks, suggestions and so forth.

Required Text

FUNCTIONS MODELING CHANGE, Second Edition by Connally, Hughes-Hullett et al.

Office Hours

Tuesday 10-11 am, Thursday 11-12 am

Class Attendance

You should plan to attend every class which is obviously in your best interest. You are responsible for all information provided in class, sent through email and on the course web page. Students who miss the first class meeting will be administratively dropped unless they have made other arrangements. In addition, students with more than 3 unexcused absences may be administratively dropped from the course. If you need to miss class for unavoidable circumstances, contact me as soon as possible. Electronic devices such as cell phones, pagers, watch alarms, etc. must be turned off during class.

Calculator

A graphing calculator (TI-82, 83, 84, 85 or 86) is required for this course. Calculators that perform symbolic manipulations (such as the TI-89 or TI-92) cannot be used. For in-class exams, quizzes, and the final exam, the only programs allowed in your calculator are the **EVALUATE** and **QUADRATIC FORMULA** programs found on the Math department website under Academics.

Homeworks and Quizzes

I will assign homeworks and in-class quizzes on regular basis.

Homework problems will be assigned from each section. I will grade some randomly selected problems and and your score will be based on your performance on them.

The homeworks are worth 50 points. The quizzes are worth 50 points. Late homework will NOT be accepted. Missed quizzes cannot be made up.

You are strongly encouraged to discuss homework problems with me, tutors and your classmates, to the extent that you figure out how to solve the problems yourself. Then write down the solutions in your own words.

To make grading easier for me, I ask you to follow the following procedures in turning in your assignments:

- Write your name, course number and section number on the first page of the assignment. Assignments without these information will not get any credit.
- Staple multiple pages together; do not use paper clips or paper folding. If your assignment is not stapled, it will be returned to you and you will be given no credit for the assignment. I do not carry a stapler to class.
- Write neatly, explain all steps of the problems in complete detail. Note that no credit will be given for assignments that contain only answers with no supporting work.

Labs

The purpose of the lab is to synthesize what has been studied in class. Each lab will use real world data to model on of the functions we have studied in class. You will be expected to find equations that model this real world data and explain what is meant by all parameters in the equations. A major component of your grade on the lab will be from how well you explain your equations and the goals of the lab.

Specific Lab Procedures

The labs will take place on Tuesday from 6 to 6:55 pm. You are expected to be in class then. If you miss a lab then you will receive a 0 for that lab report. If you must miss a lab for a verifiable excuse, then you can do that week's lab by yourself. Your lab report will be due a week after the lab is worked on in class.

All lab reports must be word processed and all graphs must be done in Excel.

Bring to lab the answers to any pre-lab problems that were assigned. If you fail to do this you are letting down your fellow team members. If you do not have the pre-lab problems done at the beginning of the labs, 25% will be deducted from your grade on that particular lab. No exceptions.

Bring a graphing calculator and the textbook to lab. If you own a laptop, you are encouraged to bring it too.

Each lab report should be written so that anyone familiar with precalculus could pick it up and understand the topic of the weeks lab. The lab report is not a list of answers. It should be written in complete sentences and the ideas of the report should flow. Be sure to include an introduction for the reader. The introduction should include an explanation of what the lab is about and the mathematical concepts involved. Length is not important but you must convince me that you and your group understand the concepts. You also should include a conclusion which sums up the results of the lab found by you and your lab partners. Each lab report will represent the joint work of a group of 3-4 people. For each lab, one person (called the lead author) will be in charge of writing up the groups results. Each member of the

group is responsible for the results but it is the lead authors responsibility to present the final draft in written form. Each member of the group must be lead author at least once.

The lead author should write up a rough draft and make enough copies for the co-authors. He/she should present these copies to the group within a couple of days after the lab is worked on in class. Each of the co-authors should read the lab report and make the necessary corrections or comments and return it to the lead author in the next day or two. The lead author should then make the necessary changes and turn it in at the beginning of class the day it is due. This is a very important part of the process. If the lab is poorly written and/or incomplete, everyone in the group will receive a low grade.

Please be sure to state clearly the lead author's name and the co-authors names on the final version. If a group member did not attend that week's lab, that person's name should not appear on the lab. If you include the name of an individual who did not attend the lab, this is considered to be a violation of the code of academic integrity and will be dealt with accordingly.

One grade will be assigned to all members of the group.

Once the lead author has received the corrected lab report back, he/she should make copies for his/her co-authors. The collection of lab reports will form an important collection of notes that one should study in preparing for exams. There will be questions on exams that specifically pertain to the labs so each member of the group is responsible for the material covered in the lab even if they are not the lead author.

Throughout the semester you may be asked to present your groups work to the class. No two groups lab reports will be the same so by presenting your findings the remainder of the class will be able to gain from viewing a different approach.

Grading of the labs

There will be four labs, where each lab is worth 12.5 points toward your final grade. The grading of the lab will be based on a 50 point scale where 20

points are awarded for mathematical correctness, 20 points for the explanations provided by the group and 10 points for style.

Mathematical correctness: Points are awarded according to the correctness of the equations found by the group, using variables that make sense in the context of the problems and correctness of all computations made throughout the lab.

Explanations: Points will be awarded according to how well the group explained all variables and parameters and how well your group explained the goals and conclusions of the lab. To receive points for this part, you need to carefully and accurately explain every part of the lab.

Style: Points will be awarded according to how well your group has written and organized the lab. Remember, this is a paper. Points can be deducted for spelling error, grammatical errors and poor writing. The organization of the paper is also of great importance. Your ideas should flow, there should be an introduction and a conclusion. A lab is not just answers to questions.

In-Class Exams

There will be four in-class exams. They will carry 125 points each. Three of these exams will cover the material from the text and the fourth test will be an algebra test. All exams are closed-book and closed-notes. The exact dates of the in-class exams will be announced in class and posted in the course webpage.

All electronic devices, particularly cell phones, must be turned off during exams. Silent and vibrating modes are not allowed.

Any questions regarding the grading of exams need to be cleared up within one week after the exam has been returned. Please note that exam scores will not be curved and there is no extra credit.

Students are expected to be present for all exams. If a verifiable emergency arises which prevents you from taking an in-class exam at the regularly scheduled time, you must notify me as soon as possible, and in any case, prior

to the next regularly scheduled class. In that case I may assign you a score based on your performance on the other assignments. There are **no** make-up exams. Failure to contact me as stated above or inability to produce sufficient evidence of a real emergency will result in a grade of zero on the exam.

Final Exam

There will be a 200 points final exam at the end of semester on Friday December 7, 2007. Please do not arrange to leave town prior to this date as this exam will only be given on the above date.

Course Grades

Following is the score distribution over all assignments:

Assignment	Grade
In-class exams total	375 points
Algebra exam	125 points
Labs	50 points
Homework and quizzes	100 points
Final exam	200 points
Total possible points	850 points

At the end of the Semester, grades will be assigned based on the following scale:

Total Points	Grade
765-850	A
680-764	B
595-679	C
510-594	D
0-509	E

Dropping The Course

The last day to drop with a grade of "W" (if passing) or change to Audit is October 12, 2007, using a change of schedule form with my signature.

Incomplete Grades

If you fail to complete the course due to circumstances unforeseen, then you may qualify for a grade of I, "incomplete" if ***all*** of the conditions are met:

1. You have completed all but a small portion of the required work.
2. You have scored at least 50% on all work completed.
3. You have a valid reason for not completing the course on time.
4. You agree to make up the material in a short period of time.
5. You ask for the incomplete before grades are due - 48 hours after the final exam.

University Policies

You are expected to be familiar with and abide by the University of Arizona's Code of Academic Integrity, Student Code of Conduct, and Official Student Email Policy. These policies will be strictly enforced.

Students with Disabilities

If you anticipate issues related to the format or requirements of this course, please meet me to discuss ways to ensure your full participation in the course. If you determine that formal disability-related accomodations are necessary, it is very important that you be registered with Disability Resources (621-3268; drc.arizona.edu). You should notify me of your eligibiity for accomodations as soon as possible. We can then plan how to coordinate your accomodations.