

Math 122B-013 First Semester Calculus

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Office Hours: T 1:00-2:00, Th 1:00-2:00, F 10:00-11:00, or by appointment (email me)

Class time: MTWRF 12:00-12:50

Course webpage: <http://d2l.arizona.edu/>

Calculus Website: <http://math.arizona.edu/~calc>

To Do List

Please do the following on the first day of class:

- Familiarize yourself with the D2L site for this course.
- Read the course policy available on D2L.
- **Enroll in WebAssign.** Instructions are listed in the course policy. You will be able to use WebAssign for free for about two weeks. So if you are unsure about whether you will remain in this course, you may enroll in WebAssign without paying (until deciding). You should also have available an electronic copy of the textbook through WebAssign.
- Buy an acceptable calculator (see course policy), if you do not already have one.
- Purchase the textbook if you would like to have a copy. While most homework problems come from the textbook, I have typed up the problems, and they are available on the D2L site. If you miss class, it may be helpful to have a copy of the textbook to read over the material. This textbook is also used for second semester calculus, if that influences your decision. If you are not sure if you want a copy of the textbook, it may be a good idea to wait before purchasing one.
- Take a look at the calendar on WebAssign. Due dates for assignments should appear shortly, if they haven't already.

Work Ethic

The number one reason students fail this class is the lack of an appropriate work ethic. Specifically, I have found that among students who miss 3 or more assignments before the first exam, more than 90% fail the class. In contrast, among students who miss fewer than 3 assignments before the first exam, more than 90% pass the class. From my past experience, about one third of students fall into the former category.

Why does this happen? Well, as the semester progresses, students get busier and the material gets harder. As a result, the students who slacked off at the beginning of the semester are overwhelmed by the course later on. Eventually, they can no longer obtain the grade they wanted or even pass the class. Finally, they give up entirely. They don't show up to class, tests, or even the final. If you choose to be in the class, I ask that you come to class, pay attention, learn the material, do your homework, and study for tests.

Students who have taken calculus before

If you have taken calculus before, know that I cannot place you into another level of math or exempt you from the course. If you think there has been a mistake in your placement, you can try taking an exam for credit, or you may try to take the class elsewhere and have the credits transferred. If, however, you choose to stay in this class you will need to put in the effort to learn like everyone else. I have had students before who overestimated their knowledge of calculus and even aced the first exam, but still failed the class.

Ask questions

Oftentimes I will present a problem and have you work on a similar problem right after. I will present the answer, and if there are no questions, I will move on to the next problem. If you didn't understand how to do the problem or would like another example, please ask. You will not learn by sitting silently when you don't understand something.

If you don't feel comfortable asking questions during class, you can ask questions before or after class. You may also come to my office hours listed above for questions. If you cannot make the times above, send me an email, and I will find a time to meet with you. Lastly, feel free to send me questions via email. Just know that if you send me an email about the homework, it may take me some time to respond. So you shouldn't wait until the night the homework is due to ask questions.

Welcome to Calculus, and Good Luck in the Course!