

Math 122B: First Semester Calculus Homework Guidelines

WebAssign The majority of the problems you will do in this class will be through WebAssign. Here are some tips to get the most out of it:

- **The primary goal is to learn the material, not to get the best score.** I've seen students get close to 100% on WebAssign homework and fail the course overall, mainly because they treat WebAssign like a game instead of deliberate practice.
- Work through every problem **in detail** on your own paper as though you were going to turn it in. Only then should you submit your result!
- You get multiple tries on most questions, but if you get a question wrong the first time you should think very carefully about why before submitting more attempts - don't just change values at random.
- Be careful with answer formatting! For example, X and x are different variables and $\pi \neq 3.14$. Sometimes the reason you got a question wrong isn't that your work is wrong, but that you entered it wrong (this is a fundamental flaw with online homework, but it is what it is!)
- If you've submitted 2 answers for a question and you're still wrong, go talk to a friend, a tutor or me before submitting another answer! This is a good reason to start the assignment as soon as you can - don't put it off until the day it is due.

Written Homework Written homework is an important part of the learning process because it forces you to communicate your knowledge in a clear, concise manner. Mathematics is every bit as much about *communicating* the answer as it is knowing the correct answer! Here are my guidelines for written homework:

- Please use standard size (8.5-by-11) loose-leaf paper. If you tear paper from a notebook, make sure you remove the fringe (you'll understand why if you ever have to grade hundreds of pages of homework a week).
- Please staple your pages! Super simple.
- **Answers without complete justification will not receive full credit.** With online homework, the answer is all that matters (in regards to grading). With written homework, the answer will only be worth about 1/4 the overall grade!
- Please label your assignments with your name, 122B-008, the assignment due date and assignment number in the upper right corner.
- Write legibly and in a one-column format, and draw a line between each problem.

On the next page, you will find a 'sample' homework with some formatting notes. Please follow these guidelines - it makes grading much more efficient (which benefits you).

Prob #

NAME,
ETC
TOP RIGHT

Isaac Newton
MATH 122B-008
2/10/14
HW # 1

1. (Worksheet 1 #1)

Simplify the following:

$$\frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} \quad \text{where } f(x) = \sqrt{x}$$

Solⁿ :

Write
out
question
(Paraphrase,
at least)

$$\frac{\sqrt{x+h} - \sqrt{x}}{h} = \frac{(\sqrt{x+h} - \sqrt{x})(\sqrt{x+h} + \sqrt{x})}{h(\sqrt{x+h} + \sqrt{x})}$$

Clear,
concise
work.
No scratch
work!!

(FOIL) = $\frac{(x+h) - x}{h(\sqrt{x+h} + \sqrt{x})}$

↑
EXPLAIN STEPS
↓

(Cancel) = $\frac{h}{h(\sqrt{x+h} + \sqrt{x})}$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{x+h} + \sqrt{x}}$$

BOX
your
answer

Draw
A Line
between
problems

~~2. (Book 2.1 # 23)~~

Don't start a new
Prob @ bottom!