MATH 261 Fall 2017 General Syllabus

Basic Information

Instructor: NAME (EMAIL ADDRESS).
Course Coordinator: Prof. Dan Bates (bates@math.colostate.edu).
Course website: http://www.math.colostate.edu/~bates/M261/F17/index.html.
Tentative daily schedule: See the course website.
Office hours: See course website for times and locations. You may attend the office hours of any instructor. Also see the section on Additional Help at the end of this syllabus.
Textbook: Thomas’ Calculus, Second Custom Edition for Colorado State University (identical to the 13th edition), by Thomas, Weir, and Hass. MyMathLab is not required, but you are welcome to use it. Earlier editions of the book have similar content, but some of the problem numbers might be different.
Calculator: No calculators allowed (or needed).
Prerequisites: Calculus II (Math 161).

Essential Dates

It is your responsibility to keep track of the following dates and take any action necessary (e.g., adding, withdrawing, etc.). Please note that homework is due each Wednesday except during exam weeks and during the first week of class.
Monday, August 21: Classes begin.
Friday, August 25: Restricted drop deadline.
Sunday, August 27: Last day to add without override.
Wednesday, September 6: Registration closes.
Thursday, September 14 (5:05 – 6:20 p.m.): EXAM 1
Thursday, October 12 (5:05 – 6:20 p.m.): EXAM 2
Monday, October 16: Last day to withdraw, repeat/delete deadline.
Thursday, November 9 (5:05 – 6:20 p.m.): EXAM 3
Saturday, November 18 – Sunday, November 26: Fall break!
Friday, December 8: Classes end.
Monday, December 11 (11:50 a.m. – 1:50 p.m.): FINAL EXAM
Tuesday, December 19: Grades due.
Wednesday, December 20: Grades available on RAMweb.

Grades

You can earn up to 600 points in this course, broken down into written homework and exam grades as described below. Curves on exams are uncommon but will be used as necessitated by course-wide performance on each exam. Letter grades for the course will be assigned according to the typical blocks (90-100% A, 80-89% B, 70-79% C, 60-69% D, less than 60% F) unless they need to be adjusted due to curves. Some sections might also use + or – grades. Letter grade breakdowns for each exam and for the course will be posted soon after each exam and at the end of the semester on the course website. Be sure to check Canvas from time to time to make sure your grades have been recorded accurately, though be aware that the letter grade in Canvas is not guaranteed to be accurate. Please use the description below to calculate your grades yourself if you want certainty. There are no opportunities for bonus points in this course: you are assigned the grade you earn.
Written homework: 100 points

There are 11 homework sets for this course, due each Wednesday after the first week and excluding midterm weeks. Each homework problem is worth 3 points, and there will be roughly 5 problems per assignment, posted on the course website by the Wednesday before the assignment is due. Please note we use your relative score (the % of points earned) in computing your final grade, not your raw score (so 135 points out of 165 possible translates to 82/100). Yes, we’ll round up to the nearest %.

Specifics: You will receive 0 points for not turning it in or just writing down the answer without showing work, 1 point for some work but not enough to justify the answer (regardless of whether your answer is right or wrong), 2 points for enough work but the wrong answer, and 3 points for enough work and the right answer. The decision of the instructor is final; there are no rewritings of the homework for more points, and the homework must be turned in at the beginning of class on the Wednesday it is due. Late homework (except in the case of documented illness/emergency) will not be accepted. Illegible responses will be given a 0, so please write clearly. Staple multiple pages together and include your name, section, and assignment number on each page. It is unlikely that there will be time to go over homework questions during class, so please come to office hours for help.

Suggested homework: 0 points

The handful of problems on the written homework each week will not cover the breadth of topics covered in class. You should also plan to do the suggested practice problems that are posted on the course website. Many of the exam problems will be similar to those in the suggested homework, so it is well worth your time to try the practice problems. If you have trouble, come to the office hours for help.

Exams: 500 points

There are three midterm exams (on Thursday evenings, 5:05-6:20 pm) and a cumulative final exam in Math 261 – dates are listed above. Each midterm is worth 100 points. The final is worth 200. There will be review sessions (places and times TBD – check the website) the Tuesday and Wednesday evenings before each midterm and sometime before the final exam. The locations of the midterms and final exams will be posted on the math department website (http://www.math.colostate.edu) well in advance of each exam. Be sure to go to the correct room (according to the first letter of your last name). Books, notes, and calculators are not allowed for exams. Also, please be sure to remove earbuds, turn off phones, remove watches capable of computation, and generally put away any other devices or belongings that might distract you or carry the potential for cheating.

Policies

Academic integrity

The University has an Academic Integrity Policy and Student Conduct Code (see the CSU General Catalog) which is enforced in Math 261. With respect to Math 261, joint effort on homework (written and suggested) is encouraged. However, with respect to exams, the Honor’s Pledge is specifically: “I will not give, receive, or use any unauthorized assistance.” Students judged to have engaged in cheating on an exam will receive a score of 0 for that exam. Also, for the student who received a 0 on an exam due to cheating, Repeat/Delete will not be an option for the grade earned the semester cheating occurred. A second offense will result in an F for the course. Cases of flagrant academic dishonesty will be brought to the attention of the TILT Academic Integrity Program. Put simply: Don’t cheat. I have no patience for academic dishonesty.
RDS

Everything is handled electronically. Please visit RDS with any questions and be sure to set up your exam times online far in advance. There are no RDS accommodations for homework.

Make-up exams

Make-ups for exams will be given ONLY in cases of university-approved absence and documentable emergencies. All excuses must include adequate documentation. Inform your instructor about any such absences as soon as possible. The course coordinator will handle the scheduling of make-up exams. Please fill out the “Alternate Exam Time Request Form” on the course website ASAP and turn it in to your instructor no later than 10 days before the exam you will miss. Of course, for illnesses or other emergencies, this form will need to be turned in later. If you have a major life event (e.g., getting married or the premiere of the symphony you composed, NOT family vacations) that is neither university-approved nor an emergency, please contact the coordinator for options.

Exam conflicts with other courses

Students are not given overrides by the Math Department to register for Math 261 if they have a conflict with another course at the times of the Thursday evening exams. If the department of the course with such a conflict gives an override for this conflict, it is up to that department to resolve the conflict.

There should also not be a direct conflict for the final exam. In the case that a student has three or more final exams in one day, the Registrar indicates that the student may negotiate with his or her instructors for an alternate exam time for one or more courses. In this situation, the general policy is that final exams for uncoordinated courses should be moved instead of those for coordinated courses. In other words, if you are in this situation, please try to move your other final exams since Math 261 is a coordinated course.

Grade assignments

You receive the grade you earn, and the grade distribution stands. For example, if you have earned an 88% in the course, you can expect to receive a B and should not waste your time or mine by asking for the next higher grade.

Regrades

If you spot a grading error on an exam (e.g., you believe you lost points without reason or there was some arithmetic error with calculating the total grade), you have one week to bring this potential error to the attention of your instructor. Please check your grades on Canvas (especially after regrades) to make sure they were recorded accurately. The decision of the instructor stands. Changing your answers prior to a regrade is a form of cheating and will result in a 0 on the exam being regraded.

Additional Help

In addition to the office hours mentioned at the beginning of the syllabus, there are several resources available to you. The Calculus Center (www.math.colostate.edu/calculus-center/index.shtml) offers help with any remedial (Trig, Calc 1, Calc 2) difficulties you are having. They will also sometimes have tutors comfortable with Math 261 – see their website for details. TILT has free tutors available Sunday – Thursday, 5 p.m. – 10 p.m. Also, you could see the Math Department website for a list of personal tutors.

GOOD LUCK THIS SEMESTER!