Course Syllabus

Math 144 - Section 03
Spring 2013
Boise State University
Instructor: Jaimos F Skriletz
email: jaimos@math.boisestate.edu
webpage: http://math.boisestate.edu/~jaimos/m144-spring2013
Office: MG 214-D
Office Hours:
  Monday-Thursday from 10:00am-11:50am
  Or by appointment
Lecture:
  Tuesday, Thursday from 12:00pm-12:50pm in room ILC 402

I reserve the option to make changes to this syllabus. Any changes will be announced in class and emailed before they occur.

Course Description

Emphasis on the concept of functions as mathematical entities; domain, range, inverses, graphing. Right-triangle and circular function approaches to trigonometry. Trigonometric Identities. Graphs of Trigonometric functions; amplitude, frequency, phase shift. Inverse trigonometric functions. Polar coordinates and polar representations of complex numbers. Systems of equations. Conic sections and other topics from analytic geometry as time permits.

Topics and Objectives

This course will cover the following sections from the text book: 5.1-5.5, 6.1-6.6, 7.1-7.5 and 8.1-8.3.

The overall goal of this course is to improve both mathematical ability and provide an overview of the mathematical knowledge needed for a calculus course. By the end of the course students are expected to be able to read and write with correct mathematical notation. Improve their critical thinking and problem solving skills along with being able to describe the solution to a problem in a series of clear logical steps.

Prerequisites

To insure a reasonable level of “mathematical maturity” and background knowledge, a ‘C’ or better in Math 108 or sufficient test scores on the COMPASS, ACT, or SAT placement exams is required.

Textbook

Precalculus: Mathematics for Calculus, Sixth Edition
By Stewart, Redlin, and Watson
Thomson Brooks/Cole
Webpage

http://math.boisestate.edu/~jaimos

This webpage will contain all information relevant to this course. All students are expected to be able to access the webpage and to be able to view and print pdf documents in order to get the assignments, exam solutions, and other resources for the class.

Class Calendar

The class calendar which will contain the dates for all the exams and the approximate section covered in class is on the class webpage. The calendar will be updated as the class progresses. Please check the class webpage and calendar regularly to keep up to date in class.

Grading

The grade earned in this class is the reflection of the students ability to solve and communicate the solution to various questions on the exams and graded assignments. Students are graded on their ability to provide a valid logical argument that leads to the solution from the definitions and theorems.

The questions will be presented in three basic formats: Daily homework exercises, graded assignments and in-class exams. The total number of points that can be earned in this course are divided up as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 Graded Assignments</td>
<td>20 points ea. 100 points total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Exams</td>
<td>100 points ea. 300 points total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>200 points 200 points total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>600 points</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The letter grade earned is determined by the total number of points you earn throughout the course. Using the standard (90/80/70/60) grading scale and approximate points needed for each grade as are follows:

- A+: 582-600
- A: 558-581
- A-: 540-557
- B+: 522-539
- B: 498-521
- B-: 480-497
- C+: 462-479
- C: 438-461
- C-: 420-437
- D+: 402-419
- D: 378-401
- D-: 360-377
- F: 0-359

These boundaries are subject to slight changes (in the students favor) to match the natural breaks in the grades earned by the class as a whole.

Participation and Attendance

Just as practicing mathematics (yourself) is important, it’s vital to hear and see the concepts in lectures as well. To emphasize the importance of attending lecture and participation I will take attendance most class periods, preform doing random daily homework checks (to see who is been doing the daily homework), and I will keep note of questions asked in class, outside of class either in person or over email.

Everyone is encouraged to ask questions during lectures. Chances are: any question you might have, another students has as well. You can ask questions about the homework, as long as I can address the class as a whole with the answer. Detailed questions about homework, as well as any private conversations should be reserved for after class has ended or during my office hours. Also feel free to ask any questions over email, I usually check it multiple times through the day to try to reply promptly.

Attendance and Participation can earn the student between 0 and 25 points extra credit which will be applied to their final grade (this equates to 3% on your final grade)
Daily Homework Exercises

Homework is an essential tool for one’s learning and understanding of Mathematics. The goal of daily homework is to give the average student enough problems to gain familiarity and understanding of the topics of the course. Daily homework is assigned for the benefit of the student to ensure a sufficient amount of practice.

A normal student should be spending about 1-2 hours a day (8-12 hours a week) outside of class working on mathematical problems. I provide a suggested list of problems for each section, but feel free to do more or try additional problems than just the assigned ones. The answers to odd numbered problems can be checked in the back of the text and the solution manual will provide detailed solutions to each of the problems.

The first 5-10 minutes or so of class will be spent answering questions students have from the daily homework. Students are also encouraged to email if they have any questions and request help on the daily homework. There is also an option solution manual to help students understand the problems and their solutions.

Graded Assignments

Throughout the course there will be 7 (or 8) graded assignments worth 25 points each. The assignment grade will be calculated using the top 6 assignment grades.

These assignments are graded on the students ability to clearly communicate the problem and solution using a valid logical argument along with correct mathematical notation. I strongly encourage students to solve the problems first on a ‘rough draft’ (or scratch work) and then rewrite a ‘final draft’ that explains the problem and the solution to be turned in.

Solutions for the graded assignments will be posted on the class webpage and students are encouraged to read though them to better understand the material and the problems.

Exams

There will be three hour exams and a comprehensive two hour final. The exam dates will be listed on the calendar on the class webpage.

Students who receive 70% or better on the final exam will have the option to replace the lowest exam score with the final exam percentage (provided it is higher).

Makeup/Late Work

I will not accept the graded homework assignments late. If for any reason you must miss the due date, you are to complete and give me the assignment before hand, place a copy of the assignment in my mail box (room MG235) or email me a copy.

If for any reason you miss an exam I will use your score on the final in place of the missed exam. Using the final as makeup for one of the exams will forfeit the option to have the final exam score replace any of the other low exams scores.

Missing two or more exams or the final will result in failure of the course.

Graphing Calculator

A graphing calculator is required for this course. You can use any graphing calculator that is similar to one of the following recommended Texas Instruments Calculators: TI-83, TI-84, or TI-89.

Smart phones, pda’s, laptops, etc. are not permitted on the exams. If you do not come to the exam with a valid calculator you will not be allowed the use of a cell phone.
Graphing Calculator Manual

The **Graphing-Calculator Manual** is available free-of-charge at the text-book Companion Website (www.thomsonedu.com). Instructions and links to download it are available on the webpage.

The graphing calculator manual parallels the previous version (5th edition) of the text and contains instructions on how to use the calculator to help with problems. This is an optional resource provided to help you learn how to use your graphing calculator to understand the material better.

BSU Email

I will send any updates and info about the class to your official BSU email. Please check it frequently.

Tutoring

There are tutors available for free for Math 144 in the Math Drop-In Center located in room MG118. The hours for the Drop-In center and more info on tutors (including finding a private tutor) can be found at the BSU webpage:

http://tutoring.boisestate.edu/

Classroom Policy

Class time is spent discussing the topics of the day. In addition to the BSU policies I ask for respect of the class as a whole that you please mute all cell phones, and close all laptop lids. There is no need to be texting or multitasking on your laptops. If you must be reachable by your phone, you may leave it on a silent ring and quietly step outside of the class room if needed. Please limit your comings and goings and distracting noises. Eating food, whispering to your friends, etc., can be distracting to the other students around you and I ask you respect their time as well as your own.

The BSU Student Code of Conduct can be found at http://www.boisestate.edu/osrr/

Academic Honesty / Cheating

Though I encourage working together and getting help from others including tutors and/or friends, this is not allowed on any of the hour exams or the final. All graded assignments must be a reflection of your own work and all exams must be done by yourself. If caught taking any unfair advantage on an exam or the final the student will receive a zero on the exam in question and possibility a zero in the class.

You maybe required to have a copy of your BSU student ID at each exam, so make sure you bring your BSU ID with you. If you ‘forget’ your ID you may not be allowed to take the exam.

Special Needs

I work with the Disabilities Resource Center to provide reasonable accommodations to students upon request. Students making such requests are required to provide documentation from the Disability Resource Center, located in room 114 of the Administration Building.