

Linn-Benton Community College
Department of Mathematics
Course Information & Syllabus
Math 256 – Applied Differential Equations
Fall 2019

1 Instructor Information

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WWW: Schoology.com. See instructor for registration code.
Office Hours: MWF 12:00 - 12:50 PM and *by appointment*

2 Course Information

2.1 Course Meetings

MTWF 8:00 - 8:50 in WOH-128
Your attendance and participation are expected!

2.2 Course Description

Beginning course in differential equations for students majoring in mathematics, sciences or engineering. Covers ordinary differential equations, series solutions, systems of first order differential equations, and Laplace transforms.

2.3 Course Text/Reference Material

“Introduction to Differential Equations” by Jeffrey Chasnov. Free e-book available at <https://www.math.ust.hk/macha/equations.pdf>. Our course will cover Chapters 1 through 6 of this material.

I also have supplied at the bookstore the Schaum’s outline – a great resource! **I’ll do my best to post pages for reference during the term, but we do NOT follow a textbook in this course.**

The course shell on Schoology.com will contain links to videos and references as needed. It is also your responsibility to post links to resources that you find helpful in the “updates” section of the Schoology.com course shell.

2.4 Course Prerequisites

The required prerequisite for Math 256 is a course in multi-variable calculus (Math 254). The calculus and algebra techniques that students should review thoroughly at the beginning of the course are as follows:

- Completing the Square, e.g. $x^2 - 6x + 7 = (x - 3)^2 - 2$
- Partial Fractions Decomposition (both repeating and non-repeating factors)
- Basic derivatives, including the chain rule
- Basic antiderivatives, including u-substitution

2.5 Course Caveat

This is a capstone course in calculus and will introduce you the notion of including rates of change, as functions themselves, into equations. The focus of the course will mainly be the creation and use of models of several different physical and biological phenomena. Methods of solution, while covered during the term, will not be the whole focus of the course. Students who focus entirely on memorizing methods of solution will find their experience less satisfying than students who focus on the modeling aspect of the course. Much of the rote methods of solutions will be communicated via videos and online exercises.

Your focus this term will not be entirely focused on memorizing algorithms. Focus on the modeling aspects of the material you learn.

2.6 Major Course Topics

- What is a differential equation?
- Modeling with differential equations, including identifying dependent and independent variables
- Theory of first-order and second-order linear differential equations
- Customary solution techniques to common differential equations
- Modeling free and forced oscillations (mechanical and electrical)
- Introduction to the Laplace transforms
- Solving a variety of equations using the Laplace transform
- Using the Laplace transform to model forced oscillations with continuous or discontinuous forcing terms

2.7 Student Learning Outcomes

1. Write the appropriate differential equation to model a variety of problems and interpret the solution to the differential equation in the context of the given problem.
2. Identify the necessary method and construct the analytical solution of typical ordinary differential equations.
3. Develop at least one numerical method of solving first-order and second-order differential equations.
4. Compute the Laplace transform of continuous and discontinuous functions.
5. Apply the Laplace transform to solve a variety of differential equations, including those with discontinuous forcing terms.

2.8 Course Website

The course website can be found at **Schoology.com**. Use the code provided by your instructor when you register after logging in and/or creating your account.

Schoology.com will contain everything you will need in the course – links to resources, online homework exercises, classroom work, and individual weekly homework assignments.

3 Course Grading Information

3.1 Calculation of Course Grade

Your grade in Math 256 will be comprised of several different assignments that will comprise a **weighted average** to determine your final grade.

Category	Weight	Range	Grade
Rote Procedures (MOM)	15 %	90% - 100%	A
Showing Understanding	25 %	80% - 89%	B
Communicating Understanding	10 %	70% - 79%	C
Assessment	30 %	60% - 69%	D
Capstone	20 %	< 60%	F

Please note all enrolled students will earn one of the above grades only in Math 256. Incomplete grade policy is described below. **Please see section 3.4 of this syllabus for more information about each category.**

3.2 Grading Philosophy

Please note that your course grade is spread over a variety of assessments and types of work. Your work in this course should be thought of as a slow and steady march, not a sprint to the finish the last week. **Students should be aware of the affect of each individual assignment on their overall grade. Create your own spreadsheet so that you are aware of how each assignment impacts the overall course grade.**

3.3 Grading Policies

1. The instructor makes the final determination of your course grade based on work you have submitted, according to the grade distribution outlined in this syllabus.
2. **Late Work** The goal of our course is for a student to meet the course objectives, however your instructor cannot be overloaded with tons of late work! That being said, every assignment is important and has value to you as your work toward the objectives.
 - (a) Your assignments on MyOpenMath come with six (6) late passes you can use at your convenience. After that, late assignments will earn the score achieved by the due date. Late passes on MyOpenMath extend the assignment by 48 hours from the due date. For assignments due on Sunday evening, using a late pass will extend your due date to Tuesday evening. Please note that using the late pass in that scenario on Monday will still extend the due date to Tuesday evening.
 - (b) For all other class assignments, **no late work will be accepted**. Instead, your strategy should be to **submit whatever you have completed by the due date** in order to receive credit for the work you have completed.
3. To receive credit, assignments must be **clear and easy to follow**. Students who turn in what looks like scratch work or work that is difficult to interpret will receive minimal credit. *Think edited version of a paper, instead of a rough draft!* Students may submit handwritten (neat) assignments or computer-generated work on word processors or L^AT_EX . **All submissions online MUST be in PDF format.**
4. **Incomplete Grade Policy** Grades of incomplete are given solely at the instructor's discretion to students with unusual and verifiable extenuating circumstances. You are expected to complete the course requirements within the time frame of the academic quarter.

3.4 Assignments Philosophy

Every assignment you undertake in this course has a specific purpose and meaning that is there for you to discover as you complete the assignment. **There is always going to be something deeper than an algebraic process or a correct answer.** Since we live in a world with information at our fingertips, and homework solutions available on Google in an instant, you should seriously consider what value you add to your own knowledge as you work through your exercises!

So, think about the following when you are working on your assignments:

1. What is the big idea in this assignment?
2. What skills do I need to complete the assignment? How do those skills lead me to the big idea?
3. What is the physical situation that the given differential equation(s) model?
4. What would happen if I changed something? What other questions arise from the work I have done?
5. Investigate and experiment further!

There is more here than memorizing procedures and being graded on your short-term memory. If that is what you are looking for, we should talk soon!

With this philosophy in mind, here is more information about the allocation of your course grade:

3.4.1 Rote Procedures

This part of your grade is based entirely on your work in MyOpenMath. This is where you'll review the algebraic procedures in the course.

3.4.2 Showing Understanding

This part of your grade will consist of the many in-class problems you'll work both individually and in groups. You'll be assessed on the mathematics that you present in your assignment. Complete and correct mathematics will earn the credit here.

3.4.3 Communicating Understanding

This part of your grade will assess how you communicate and, more importantly, make connections between assignments and course outcomes & objectives. Students who present symbolic mathematics only will receive no credit in this category, however students who submit their assignments with a solid beginning, middle, and an end of the work will receive up to full credit. (Never forget the basics of good writing!) This category reflects the fact that STEM careers require communication with STEM and non-STEM colleagues, from STEM and non-STEM that you will work with.

3.4.4 Assessment

This category comprises your traditional mid-term exams during the course. Midterms will be at the end of Week 3 and at the end of Week 7.

3.4.5 Capstone

This category will have two assessments – a traditional final exam and a capstone group problem you'll work during the last week of the term.

3.5 Midterm Exam Policies

1. Programmable calculators will not be permitted during exams. Calculators similar to the TI-36 only will be allowed.
2. Cell phones, tablets, and laptops **MUST** be turned OFF during exams and are not permitted to be used during exams. OFF means powered down. Ringing cell phones disturb other students and might result in disciplinary action.
3. You are allowed one 3"x5" notecard for reference on each exam, and one 3"x5" notecard for the final exam.
4. Any violation of these policies shall constitute a breach of the student code of conduct and will result in at least a zero on that exam, and likely disciplinary action including a report to the Dean of Students and dealt with according to the student code of conduct.

4 General Course Policies

1. Attend class regularly. Participate, probe, ask questions! Class time will be a mixture of lecture and group work, so your interaction with your classmates and with the material is critical.
2. Make up exams must be coordinated with your instructor ahead of the scheduled exam. If you need alternative arrangements of any kind, simply consult with the instructor ahead of time.
3. Due dates and times for assignments will be posted on the course website.
4. I will not grade or score work that looks like chicken scratch above about half the grade value. Your work and presentation create your reputation and you should consider how you want to present yourself to college instructors and to future employers or clients. I will give you feedback roughly proportional to the clarity of your work.
5. Your instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus at any time and any circumstances or situations that are either unclear or not addressed specifically in this document shall be handled solely at the instructor's discretion.

5 College Policies

5.1 LBCC Comprehensive Statement of Nondiscrimination

LBCC prohibits unlawful discrimination based on race, color, religion, ethnicity, use of native language, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, material status, disability, veteran status, age, or any other status protected under applicable federal, state, or local laws.

5.2 Disability Services Statement

Students who have any emergency medical information the instructor should know of, who need special arrangements in the event of evacuation, or students with documented disabilities who may need accommodations, should make an appointment with the instructor as early as possible, and no later than the first week of the term. If additional assistance is required, the student should contact the Center for Accommodation Resources (CFAR) at 541-917-4789.

5.3 Student Code of Conduct

All students at LBCC are expected to be familiar with and to abide by the published Student Code of Conduct. Violations will be reported to the Associate Dean of Students for possible disciplinary action.

5.4 Academic Dishonesty

You must abide by the policies set forth by the college regarding cheating and academic dishonesty. Please see the complete policy at [this link](#). Any evidence of academic dishonesty will result in a zero on the assignment. Please do your own work – you learn more when you approach it honestly.

5.5 Basic Needs Statement

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Roadrunner Resource Center for support (resources@linnbenton.edu, or visit us on the web www.linnbenton.edu/RRC under Student Support for Current Students). Our office can help students get connected to resources to help. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to provide any resources that they may possess.