

MATH 376 Differential Equations I
Dr. Boersma
Fall 2011

- Goals:** This course will provide an introduction to differential equations – primarily focusing on the qualitative analysis of first-order differential equations and systems. The study of first-order equations will include qualitative analyses such as slope fields and phase lines (including bifurcations) and analytic techniques such as separation of variables and integrating factors (for linear equations). We will learn how to model with systems of differential equations and study the special geometry of certain systems including phase planes for linear systems. We will cover chapters 1,2, and part of 3.
- Office:** Bouillon 107E, phone: 963-1395, email boersmas@cwu.edu. Office hours will be announced in class shortly. You may of course drop by anytime. If I'm not busy I'll be glad to talk with you.

Required

- Materials** **Text:** *Differential Equations*, by Blanchard, Devaney, and Hall (third edition).

- Your Grade:** Your final grade in this course will depend on one fifty-minute midterm, one final exam, and several graded homework assignments.

- Exams** The midterm exam will be given in class, thus making attendance mandatory on this day. The midterm is scheduled for Friday October 21. If you anticipate a conflict, please see me at least one week **before** the date of the exam. The final exam is scheduled for **TUESDAY December 6th**, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. This time is scheduled by the registrar's office and cannot be changed!

Graded

- Homework** Every couple of weeks I will assign a few problems to be turned in and graded. Please take advantage of this opportunity to show me what you have learned in this course! These are your chances to show me the best work you are capable of. Please hand in complete solutions to all problems I assign. All turned in homework should be neat and all steps and conclusions should be clearly explained. I will make it very clear when homework is to be handed in for a grade.

- Homework** There will also be **daily** homework assignments from the textbook. It is **your responsibility** to keep up with these assignments. Although these problems will not be collected or graded, they will provide you with a variety of practice before attempting the graded homework problems.

- Attendance** I will assume that everyone attends every class meeting. If you happen to miss a day, be advised that you are still responsible for any assignments

that were given or turned in. Feel free to come by my office to discuss the day's activities that you may have missed.

Final Grades: As mentioned in part above, your final grade will depend on

Graded Homework	100 pts.
One Midterm	100 pts.
Final Exam	100 pts.
TOTAL	300 pts.

While I reserve the right to “curve” final grades as I deem appropriate, your grade will be no lower than:

A :300– 277	C+:237– 229
A-: 276– 268	C :228– 217
B+:267– 259	C-:216– 208
B :258– 247	D+:207– 199
B-: 246– 238	D :198– 187
	D- : 186– 178

Students who have special needs or disabilities that may affect their ability to access information or material presented in this course are encouraged to contact me or the Center for Disability Services.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Midterm: October 21

Final: December 6