

Math 242 &D1 MWF 11 445 Altgeld Class Organization Fall 2001

Instructor: Prof. Bruce Reznick, 243 Illini Hall, 333-4284, reznick@math.uiuc.edu. My phone has voice mail and I frequently check and reply to my email, including weekends. Office hours are by appointment. I take them seriously, and they can usually be arranged within 24 hours. You are also encouraged to ask me questions immediately before and during class. I teach at 10 so I may not get to class much before the bell, but I'll try to be the last person to leave the room. I'm terrible with names; don't take it personally.

This course has an unmoderated newsgroup, called `uiuc.class.math242d1`. You are encouraged to use this newsgroup to ask (and answer) course-related questions. I will monitor the newsgroup, and post answers to your e-mail questions, after anonymizing the source.

This course has a webpage – <http://www.math.uiuc.edu/~reznick/classes/math242.html>. I'm older than the average HTML coder; your tolerance is appreciated. There will be a "class diary". I'm sorry, but it's impossible for me to post exam solutions in advance.

Text, Syllabus and Philosophy: The text is *Calculus: Early Transcendentals* by James Stewart. The syllabus is the standard one and is distributed separately. I will assume that you can do the algebraic manipulations without much help, and will focus on the underlying ideas and introduce you to interesting objects from advanced mathematics. **I will assume that you are intellectually attracted to this material and are willing to put some serious thought into understanding and enjoying it.** Education is not a zero-sum game when done correctly. I do not consider you my adversaries, and hope the feeling is mutual. Become an active participant in this course. Let it get under your skin and visit your dreams. If you find yourself falling behind, please talk to me as soon as possible. Many students who feel they are overmatched in the first week are not giving themselves enough credit and will succeed. Many students who feel the course is pretty easy, and don't work very hard, find out later that they are mistaken.

Homework Policy: You are expected to glance at least at the appropriate sections of the text in advance of the lecture. It is much more useful to read linearly in the text than it is to look for help on particular problems in a piecemeal way. Written homework will be assigned to be due (nearly) every class. There will be both regular problems from the book and frequent "Honors Problems", which require greater insight. Please staple or paper-clip your homework sheets (no folding over corners), and consider writing more than one draft. You are expected to spell correctly and write complete, grammatical sentences when possible in this and all your university assignments. Some regular (and all Honors) problems will be graded, but you are responsible for **all** of them, and ungraded problems will show up on the tests. Homework solutions will be distributed at the beginning of each class. No late homework is accepted, but the 3 lowest homework scores (possibly zero) will be omitted in computing your homework average. In rare instances, you may be excused, but the dropping of the 3 is intended to cover ordinary illnesses, weddings, etc. **Collaboration in studying and working the homework is strongly encouraged! Collaboration without comprehension is a waste of time.** A phone and e-mail list will be distributed to aid the formation of study groups once the class stabilizes. It is my policy not to give specific homework help to individuals before an assignment is due. But if you ask a question in class, in email, or on the newsgroup, I can further explain to *everybody* the mathematics which underlies your question.

Exam Policy: There will be three Hour Exams, as per the syllabus. We will decide later whether the exams will be in class or in the evening. All exams will be closed-book and closed-note, and will resemble the homeworks. Old exams will be distributed for review beforehand. The Final Exam is comprehensive, and somewhat harder than the hour exams. The Final must be held at the scheduled time, which is Friday, December 14 from 8:00 to 11:00 am. (Yeah, that's early for me, too.)

Grading Policy: Keep in mind that I am grading your work, not you as a person. Each Hour Exam counts 20%, the Final Exam counts 40% and the Homework counts 10%. The lowest 10% is dropped. All grades are numerical. The highest possible grade cutoffs are: A/B – 90%, B/C – 80%, C/D – 70%, D/F – 60%. I will try to keep you posted on any curving as the semester progresses. There are two exceptions to the numerical grading: anyone who gets 96% on the Final gets an A and anyone who gets 75% on the Final will pass. Experience has shown me that these exceptions rarely occur. Students are not supposed to be penalized for taking an honors course — in my six previous Math 242 honors sections, overall, more than half the students got an A. But, if you're looking for an easy A, please transfer to a regular section.