

Math 241 Calculus 3 / Math 199 Merit Section

Teaching Assistant: Tom Cooney

Discussion Section: AD7, Tuesday and Thursday 11:00 am - 12:50 pm

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Office: 150 Altgeld Hall

Office Hours: Monday at 3, Thursday at 3 (or email me to make an appointment) (TBC)

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Merit Discussion Section Grades

The requirements for **Math 241** are as determined by Professor Nevins and are independent of your requirements for Merit (**Math 199**). The following describes how your **Math 199** grade is determined.

Each student may earn up to 10 points for their performance in each Merit discussion. We will meet 29 times. The points will be determined on the basis of *Attendance*, *Preparation* and *Participation*.

Attendance

Attendance is required and will be recorded according to the following policy:

- 0 to 5 minutes late - 0 to 3 points assigned for attendance. (TA's decision)
- More than 5 minutes late - 0 points for attendance.
- More than 15 minutes late - 0 points for attendance and 5 points maximum possible for that discussion section.
- Unexcused absence or more than 30 minutes late - 0 points for discussion section.

Preparation

You will not be doing your homework during our meetings. I expect you to come to class having already completed any reading assignments and homework assignments due that day. You will benefit a lot more if you are ready to discuss the material in more depth and have specific questions to ask about material that may be giving you difficulty. To encourage this, I will assign "warm-up" problems that you should have completed **before** coming to class. These will be worth 2 points of your grade.

Participation

The rest of the points are for participation. Contribute your ideas and insights as well as your questions.

- You are not expected to know everything and get every question on the worksheets right.
- You are expected to work and know more at the end of our meeting than at the beginning.
- Come to class focused, prepared and ready to work on mathematics.
- Be respectful of your classmates and of their time: don't waste it.
- Help your classmates and let your classmates help you.
- Let me help you - ask me questions, come to office hours.
- Have fun! (Pretend to) Be enthusiastic about calculus for four hours a week.

The Merit Philosophy

You will understand things a lot better if you explore the ideas of the course rather than just sit back and watch me scribble homework problems on the blackboard. I'm here to help you learn rather than only give you a list of stuff which is too long to memorize. That means that when you ask me a question, I will often respond with another question. This might sometimes be annoying or frustrating but I have seen for myself how, if I give you the chance, the students themselves will find a way of thinking about the problem that helps and that they understand.

The Merit section is not a review session or tutoring session. It is not meant to be a repeat of the lecture or devoted to working through the homework assignment. You will learn to think critically about complex problems and to work with others in small groups to solve them. Share your opinions in class, but please be aware that others may have different opinions and be respectful of them. You don't have to agree, but you must learn to attack ideas, not people. Asking questions and in turn trying to answer your classmates' questions is the best thing about Merit.

When you come to office hours, I will give you direct answers and work as many examples for you as you want. I strongly encourage you to come to office hours.

I am looking forward to getting to know you! Have a great Spring semester!