

Math 231 Course Information
Spring 2009

- Instructor: Lucas Wiman (Lucas.Wiman@gmail.com)
- Time: 12-12:50 MWF in 140 Henry and 3:00-4:50 Wed in 159 Altgeld
- Office Hours: 1-2 TuTh (and by appointment), B1 Coble Hall
- Text: *Calculus, from Graphical, Numerical, and Symbolic Points of View*, Volume II by A. Ostebee and P. Zorn, Thomson Learning, Inc. 2002
- Web Page: <http://www.math.uiuc.edu/~wiman/math231/>
- Final Exam: 7-10pm, Wednesday, May 13.

You should bring your textbook and calculator to every class!

1. **COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course will be taught using intensive reading assignments, small group learning methods, mastery testing, and graphing calculators.
 - (a) **Reading Assignments:** There will be reading assignments for each class. Since group-work is based on the reading assignment, it is essential that you do the reading assignment before you come to class. If you come to class without having done the reading assignment, then you may have difficulty finishing your work for the day.
 - (b) **Small Group Learning Methods:** You will spend a large amount of each class and the weekly lab working on problems and worksheets in a group with three or four other classmates. The lecture will most often be the first 5-15 minutes of class. The purpose of the lecture is to review the material from the reading or to clarify some point that may be bothering the class. During the rest of the class I will circulate around to see how the group work is progressing and to provide guidance when necessary. In other words, you will be actively doing mathematics instead of passively listening to lecture. Participation in this group work is extremely important to your comprehension of the material.
 - (c) **Mastery Testing:** The first exam will be different from the others. It is called the Mastery Exam. It will test your mastery of some basic skills that are essential for success in this and other courses which depend on this material. You must demonstrate mastery of these skills at the 85% or better in order to pass this exam; if you do not reach 85% level you must retake the exam until you do. These repeated exams will be given weekly after the first exam. The following penalty applies for repeats: your recorded grade for this exam will be reduced by 10 points(out of 100) for each retake that is needed to reach 85%. Anyone who does not ultimately achieve a score of at least 85%(before the penalty applies) will have his/her highest mastery exam score recorded and his/her term grade reduced by one letter grade.
 - (d) **Graphing Calculator:** You should have a graphing calculator for this course. If you already have one from high school, then that should be fine. Otherwise, I strongly suggest buying one (available either cheaply online, or at various stores nearby). You may use calculators on homework and in-class work, though not on any of the exams.
2. **Homework, Group Work and Exams:** The grades for this course will be constructed from a variety of group and individual activities. These are described as follows:
 - (a) **Group Work:** Each class you will be divided into groups and given an assignment to work on as a group. Each member of the group must hand in their own solution set at the end of class. One set of solutions for each group will be selected at random and graded. All members of a group will get the grade recorded for that paper. Therefore you must work as a group to make sure that each member of the group can solve all of the problems. The papers must be stapled together (I will have a stapler with me), and all group members' names must appear on the first sheet. Your lowest two scores will be dropped.

- (b) **HOMEWORK:** There will be brief daily homework, which will be assigned at the end of each class. Homework assignments will also be posted to the website. Homework will usually be returned the following class period. On each assignment, I will pick 1-2 problems to grade, and they will make up your grade for that assignment. Each homework will be worth 10 points, and will be roughly graded as follows: (0/10) did not attempt problems, or did not turn in; (5/10) attempted problems but showed no ability to do them correctly; (10/10) problems done correctly. Partial credit will be assigned according to my views of how much mastery you demonstrated *by what you have written down*. In order to get full credit, you must show work or explain your thought processes. Your homework should always be stapled, and your writing should be legible. Points *may* be taken off if your homework is consistently illegible.
- (c) **EXAMS:** There will be 3 one hour exams during the semester as well as a comprehensive final exam. The mastery exam is considered to be one of the 3 hour exams.
- (d) **GRADES:** The grades will be calculated as follows: homework (10%), group work (10%), lab work (10%), exams ($\frac{40}{3}\%$ each), and the final 30%. You must pass the final exam in order to pass this course. The grade scale will be no worse (likely no better) than the following:

Percent	Grade
92.0-100	A
90.0-91.9	A-
88.0-89.9	B+
82.0-87.9	B
80.0-81.9	B-
78.0-79.9	C+
72.0-77.9	C
70.0-71.9	C-
68.0-69.9	D+
62.0-67.9	D
60.0-61.9	D-
0.0-59.9	F

3. Course Policies:

- (a) **Cheating:** Cheating on an exam may result in consequences ranging from failing the course to expulsion from school. In general, your homework should be your own work, however helping each other is encouraged. There is a difference between helping someone with understand and doing their work for them.
- (b) **Disability Concerns:** If you have a disability, please contact me via email or after class, and accommodations will be made.
- (c) **Talking:** If I make an announcement during group work, you should stop talking during the announcement.
- (d) **Class Work:** You should be working during class time. If you finish group work early, begin your reading assignment. Newspapers, music players, laptops, cell phones are disruptive, and may be grounds for a zero on group work that day. If such behavior continues, you may be removed from the class.
- (e) **Late Homework:** Homework is due at the beginning of the hour. Late homework will not be accepted without a valid excuse.
- (f) **Attendance:** You may miss up to seven class periods without a valid excuse. If you miss more than seven class periods, you will fail the course. Excused absences must have accompanying documentation.