

MATH 272–004: Honors Calculus I

FALL 2026

MoTuWeTh 10:00–10:50, MDD 207

Instructor: Arturo Magidin
Office Hours: Mo 11:00-12:00, Tu 13:30-15:00, We 13:00-14:00,
Th 11:00-12:00 and 13:00-14:00, or by arrangement.
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Course Moodle Page: MATH272-004-202720.

PREREQUISITES: Consent of the Department.

TEXTBOOK: *Calculus, Early Transcendentals, Third Edition*, by William Briggs, Lyle Cochran, Bernard Gillett, and Eric Schulz. Pearson, 2019. We will do a quick review of Chapter 1, and the course will cover Chapters 2–5, and Section 6.1.

MOODLE: I will keep a MOODLE page associated to the course. The page will contain hand-outs and important dates, same as the course page listed above (solutions to homeworks and exams, homeworks due, etc). I do not put grades on Moodle: you will be getting all your homeworks, quizzes, and exams back with your grades.

MyLab: I will **not** be giving assignments through MyLab. However, it has resources that you may find helpful for practice and study. It is up to you.

MY OFFICE AND OFFICE HOURS: My office is in Maxim Doucet Hall Room 404. I will have five office hour sessions a week, tentatively set as above. We can also meet by appointment if you cannot make the regular office hours. Email me, or see me just before or just after class to make an appointment. **Feel free to ask for an appointment, especially if you cannot make the regular office hours for some reason.**

READING THE BOOK PRIOR TO ATTENDING CLASS: Each class, I will note which section of the book you should read before the next lecture. Be sure to read it even if you do not think you understand it. It makes class time much more useful, allowing the ideas to percolate through and letting you pay more attention to what is being said in lecture.

ChatGPT, CLAUDE, GEMINI, AND OTHER SYNTHETIC TEXT EXTRUDERS. Note that CHATGPT and other (mis)labeled “artificial intelligence” products are *not* search engines and are *not* intelligent. LLMs and other Generative AI products (generically, “AI” here) work by trying to predict the most likely next word in light of previous words in the sentence and the given prompt, on the basis of its training data. They are not reproducing “information”, nor are they making sense (any sense that is perceived in their output is the creation of those reading that output). They are also not very good at writing proofs or solving numerical problems.

There is also growing evidence that the result of cognitive offloading (having these products do the work for you) results in atrophied abilities and lack of learning. As I note below, Mathematics is learned mostly by doing. The struggle and decisions you make along the way are at least as important as the final product. That is also why I require you to show your work in homework assignments.

Use of ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, and other such products in this class is strictly prohibited, and their use is a violation of course policy. This violation will result in at least a zero grade in the assignment, even if the result is clearly labeled as the output of an AI product. Repeat offenses, may result in more severe penalties, up to and including a grade of F for the entire course.

RECORDINGS: Under Louisiana Law, recordings and transcriptions of in-person communication requires explicit notification to everyone who may be participating that the communication is being recorded and/or transcribed. If you wish to record a lecture, or produce automatic transcription of the lecture, you will need my permission, and you will have to notify me and everyone in the classroom ahead of time, each and every time. This includes both audio and video recordings. Violation of this policy may result in you being asked to leave the classroom, confiscation of the recording technology, and other disciplinary actions.

In addition, smart glasses and other wearable devices with recording and/or other advanced technological capabilities are not permitted to be worn or used during class. This policy applies regardless of whether the smart glasses are being actively used during class. Students who require prescription lenses in smart glasses must bring and wear a separate pair of conventional prescription glasses to class. Smart glasses may not be used as a substitute for standard prescription eyewear during class. Students who arrive to class wearing smart glasses may be asked to remove them or leave class and return with appropriate conventional eyewear.

HOMEWORKS: Homework is a major part of this course, and very important. Mathematics is learned almost exclusively by doing, and that is what homework is for: to help you understand the material, and to help you zero in on the material you are finding difficult. Do not be afraid to ask for help from your fellow students, or most especially **from me**. In fact, that's basically what my office hours are for.

I cannot assign as much homework as I think you should do, because the volume would be too much for us all to handle. So you should try to do more than the assigned problems; some problems will be recommended (see below), but you may want to try even more problems.

Homework will be assigned almost every day. Assignments are usually due on Thursdays. Homework assigned on a Wednesday is due the following week. I may change the schedule a bit to accommodate very long or very short assignments, as well as midterms. In that case, I will give you sufficient advance notice of the change.

You may work on the homework in groups. However, *each of you must write up his or her own work individually*. Please be assured, it is almost invariably very easy to tell when someone is copying, especially later in the course when the problems become more complicated. I will give you worked out solutions to the assigned homework problems as you turn them in. Be sure to read them, and compare it with your graded assignments. **Homework is due at the beginning of class, as you come in. I will not accept late homeworks for any reason.**

ASSIGNED vs. RECOMMENDED PROBLEMS: In the list I give you there are two classes of problems for each section: *Assigned* and *Recommended*. *Assigned problems* are the problems you must write up and turn in each week. *Recommended problems* are problems that you probably want to do on your own.

QUIZZES: Most weeks, usually on Tuesday, we will have a short 2 question quiz, based on the homework turned in the previous Thursday and returned to you on Monday. At least one question will be taken directly from the homework. Again, I may change the day to accommodate holidays and exams, and if so I will let you know ahead of time. The quizzes will take place at the beginning of class and take 10 minutes; if you arrive late, then you forfeit that time.

TESTS: There will be three in-class chapter tests, covering Chapters 2, 3, and 4, respectively; there will also be a two and a half hour comprehensive final exam. They will take place on the following days:

Chapter 2 Test:	Thursday September 17
Chapter 3 Test:	Thursday October 22
Chapter 4 Test:	Thursday November 19
Final:	Monday December 7, 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm.

DIFFERENTIATION SKILLS TEST: When we finish Chapter 3, I will give a take-home *Differentiation Skills Test*. It consists of 10 functions you will be asked to differentiate. **You must pass this test by scoring at least 70 out of 100 before the last day of instruction to pass this course, but you may take it as many times as you need to until you pass.** Half your score will be added to your final grade (see below). Once you score 70 or more, you cannot re-take the test.

GRADING: Your final grade will be based on your homeworks and class participation, quizzes, chapter tests, and final, in the following way:

Homeworks, Quizzes, and class participation:	20%
Chapter 2 Test	15%
Chapter 3 Test	20%
Chapter 4 Test	20%
Final	25%

I will drop your lowest two homework scores and your lowest two quiz scores before averaging each separately. I will take each score and scale it appropriately so your final score is out of 1000 (so the final will be worth up to 250 points, the first midterm up to 100, your homework/quiz scores up to 200, etc). Before figuring out your letter grade, I will add half your score from the Differentiation Skills Test, so this will count as extra-credit directly into your final grade (up to 50 points out of 1000).

Note that getting 100% on the final is not enough to pass the course (though it cannot hurt). I do not curve, but I do scale (ask if you do not understand the difference).

I do not have a rigid correspondence between numerical and letter grades; this is where consideration for people who have improved (or not) throughout the semester comes in, or for people who do exceedingly well in the final, etc. For your reference, however, the following is a good approximation. Taking your final grade of 1000 points:

Letter grade	Approximate
	Approx. Range
A	900 – 1000
B	775 – 875
C	650 – 750
D	550 – 625
F	0 – 550.

TIME REQUIREMENTS: Expect to spend about 8–10 hours a week on this course, in addition to the four lectures. This includes working on homework, reading, and reviewing. If you find yourself regularly spending considerably more time than this, let me know!

MAKE-UP WORK: I do not receive late homeworks and will not allow anyone to make up any homeworks not turned in. If you cannot make it to class, have someone drop off the homework for you. If you will not be able to take an exam for a **valid** absence (illness, family emergency, UL-sponsored travel, etc), you must **notify me in advance** and we will arrange for a make-up exam.