

Math 2A, section 20
CRN: 48888

Differential Equations

Spring 2026

Instructor:

Rick Taylor (Roderic Taylor)

E-mail:

taylorroderic@fhda.edu

Classes:

Classes will be held in person, 1:30 pm – 3:45 pm, on Mondays and Wednesdays in our assigned classroom on the De Anza campus.

Text:

A First Course in Differential Equations with Modelling Applications, 11th edition, by Zill, published by Cengage Learning.

Calculator:

A scientific calculator with trigonometric and exponential functions or a graphing calculator (such as a TI 83 or TI 84) is recommended for this class for use during exams. Calculators that can do symbolic integration are not allowed when taking exams.

Electronic Equipment:

Resources for the class will be made available online via Canvas. You will need to have access to an internet connection, preferably using a computer or tablet of some sort, to access them. You will need to be able to receive email from the address you have registered with myportal. You may be asked to submit some assignments to Canvas by scanning and uploading documents. Cell phones can generally do this. Or you can use a tablet with a stylus to write up and then upload assignments.

Homework and Quizzes:

Most homework problems will be assigned but not be collected. You can expect to get a quiz roughly once each week. Most quizzes will be given in class, though some may be given via Canvas. Quizzes will not all necessarily be announced in advance. Quizzes will be weighted 0-10 points towards your overall grade. Quizzes will always be scored as 100%, and weighted according to the average score. For example, if your average quiz score is 50%, you will receive a quiz grade of 100% weighted 5 points. If your average quiz score is 80%, you will receive a quiz grade of 100% weighted 8 points. As a result of this, your quiz scores can improve your overall grade but cannot lower it. If you do none of the quizzes, your quiz grade will be weighted 0 points, and it will have no effect on your score.

Midterm Exams:

There will be three midterm exams for this course. They will be given in person in our usual classroom at our usual class time, and I will proctor them. Your final exam score can be used to replace the lower of your first two midterm scores. It can only replace one of your first two midterm exams. It can also be used to replace your third midterm score. This will be done automatically, and only if it is to your advantage. This can include a midterm you are unable to take for any reason. Make up exams are typically not offered for midterms, even if they are missed for reasons beyond your control. Each midterm exam is weighted 10 points.

Final Exam:

The final exam will be given on Monday, June 22, 1:45 pm – 3:45 pm in our usual classroom. I will proctor it. Taking the final exam is required for passing the course. If due to unforeseen circumstances such as illness or family emergency you are unable to take the final, let me know as soon as possible; you'll need to take an incomplete and make it up.

If at the end of the quarter you decide you do not wish to pass the class so that you may be able to retake the course, then do not attend the final. The final exam is cumulative and is weighted 10 points.

Grade:

The final grade is determined by the weighted average of quizzes, midterms, and finals as described above.

- A 92% - 100%
- A- 90% - 91%
- B+ 86% - 89%
- B 83% - 85%
- B- 80% - 82%
- C+ 70% - 79%
- C 60% - 69%
- D 40% - 59%
- F 0% - 39%

An F will also be given in the case one gets a 0 on the final exam.

Honors:

An honors cohort may be offered for this section. If you are in the Honors Program you may participate in the cohort. Please see me if you are interested in taking this class as an Honors class. To take the honors version, you must propose a project you wish to complete. This entails additional work and will earn an honors designation on your transcript. Failure to complete the extra work will result in a lowering of your course grade.

Policy on Academic Integrity:

If a student is found to have cheated on an exam, they will receive a 0 for that exam. If the exam is a midterm, they final exam may not be used to be replace it as it normally could. Academic dishonesty can include but is not limited to using material or references that are not allowed for an exam, receiving help from another student during an exam, copying from another student's exam paper, or aiding another student in doing any of this.

Academic Help:

Mathematics is a challenging subject which takes time and effort to master. Of course, students differ in their backgrounds, but in general you should expect to do a minimum of 10 hours of work per week reading the book, doing homework, and thinking about the material. This is in addition to the time you spend in class. If you find you are having difficulty with the material, it is important to address the situation immediately, as it's easy to fall behind.

The tutorial center is available Monday through Thursday, 9:00 am – 6:00 pm, both in person in S43 and online. It's a good place to study and meet with other students taking the same class. Staff working there can help you with problems. Towards the beginning of the quarter, you can schedule one on one meetings with a personal tutor.

In addition, I encourage all students to come to my office hours. Often, I'm able to help students talking with them individually in a way that's not possible in a large lecture class.

Student Learning Outcome(s):

- Construct and evaluate differential equation models to solve application problems.
- Classify, solve and analyze differential equation problems by applying appropriate techniques and theory.

Office Hours:

M,W 9:00 AM - 10:50 AM

S55