

MTH U131 (Calculus for Business and Economics) Spring 2005

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Office Hours: Mon. & Wed. 2:50-4:20 or **by appointment.**

Lectures: Mon., Wed., Thurs. 1:35-2:40 PM, 129 HT

Materials:

- *Calculus Concepts (Brief Third Edition): An Informal Approach to the Mathematics of Change* by LaTorre, Kenelly, Fetta, Harris, Carpenter, Houghton Mifflin, Boston, 2005;
- The **TI-83 (TI-83 Plus or TI-84** also acceptable) calculator is required. **No other calculator may be used on tests or the project without the explicit permission of your instructor. Please bring your textbook and calculator to each class.**
- Class packet for Spring 2005 from NU Reprographics (x2766).

Course Content

This course introduces students to the use of derivatives and integrals in solving problems in business and economics, e.g., maximizing profit, calculating average investment income and consumers' surplus. (A more detailed syllabus is given below.) **A project involving optimization is also required.** This project is described in the class packet. The graphing calculator is **used extensively** and prior familiarity with graphing calculators is helpful. Prerequisites: MTH U130 or the equivalent. Note that MTH U131 may be used to satisfy the mathematics proficiency requirement of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Assignments

A list of homework exercises from the textbook and class packet is attached. (This list is subject to revision.). Homework exercises should be done by the next class after they are assigned. Homework exercises may occasionally be collected and graded. Even if they are not collected, you are responsible for knowing the solutions of **all** homework exercises. The questions on exams and quizzes will be based on homework exercises, **quiz and test review exercises in the packet** and the material in my lectures.

Attendance

You are expected in class each day. If for some reason, you are unable to come to a class, then (if possible) please call or send an e-mail to let me know. Three or more unexplained absences will lower your final grade.

Exams

There will be seven quizzes (20-30 minutes each, the lowest score will be dropped), a midterm (1 hour test), and a final exam. At the end of the semester on the last day of classes (April 13) there will be an opportunity to make up the midterm **or** 3 quizzes, provided you don't have too many unexplained absences. Details will be given later. The final exam will count 40% of your course grade. **All students without legitimate conflicts approved by the instructor will take the final exam at the scheduled time: April 18 at 3:30 PM.** The final exam is cumulative and is common for all sections of MTH U131. **Do not make travel plans that conflict with the final exam.**

Grading

Your final grade will be determined by the following quantities: quiz grades (30%), midterm grade (15%), project grade (15%), and final exam score (40%).

The last day to drop a course without receiving a 'W' grade is **January 21**. The last date to drop a class with a 'W' is **March 25**. As a matter of Math Department policy: The **I grade** (incomplete) will be given only rarely. It is intended to cover real emergency situations in which a student who is doing reasonably well (**C-** or better) is unable, *due to circumstances beyond the student's control*, to complete all course requirements (e.g., is unable to take the final exam due to hospitalization). An **I** may not be used to rescue a failing grade, or to postpone the final.

If you want to see me, but cannot do so during my office hours, then please see me before or after any class to set up a convenient time. Also, please take advantage of the office hours of the other instructors in the course when they are more convenient.

Academic Honesty

Cheating will not be tolerated. All incidents of cheating will be reported to the Office of Judicial Affairs. The University's cheating policy and related disciplinary actions are detailed in the Student Handbook.

Tutoring: There is a free math tutoring center at 102 Cahners Hall, 110 The Fenway, extension 2328. All tutoring is done on a first-come first-served basis. Students must come in person to schedule appointments. No appointments can be made by phone. Tutoring hours are Monday-Wednesday 9:15 AM-8 PM, Thursday 9:15 AM-4 PM and Friday 9:15 AM-1 PM. Tutoring will begin on January 13. Keep in mind:

- Students go to Cahners for help in a dozen different courses and the tutors are not meant to be experts in all of them. The better prepared you are with a specific question, the better able the tutor will be able to help you.
- Not all tutors are familiar with the TI-83. If you have problems with the calculator, have someone such as me or another instructor help you before you go to Cahners.

Resolving disputes and complaints: If you are not satisfied with my responses to your serious concerns (including your final course grade), please consult the chairman of the math department, Professor Robert McOwen, 505 LA, x5635, e-mail: r.mcowen@neu.edu.

Note that the syllabus that follows is tentative. The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus if necessary. It is the responsibility of each student to stay abreast of what happens in the classroom, changes in the assigned exercises and changes in the dates of quizzes or exams. All students should consult the Blackboard site for this course regularly.