

Math 231 – Multivariable Calculus (Spring 2016)

Instructor: Kevin Woods, King 220B, Kevin.Woods@oberlin.edu. Call me Kevin!

Lectures:

Section 1: MWF 9-9:50am, King 239.

Section 2: MWF 10-10:50am, King 239.

Office Hours:

MWF 11-11:30am & 2:30-3pm, Tuesday 12:30-2pm, Thursday 3:30-5pm, and by appointment. Also, feel free to stop by any time my door is open and ask if I am free.

OWL (Oberlin Workshop and Learning) sessions:

With Louisa Liles and Hannah Pieper. Monday and Wednesday, 8-9:30pm, King 237. These are not required, but I strongly encourage you to go at least one a week (or go to both!). This class moves fast! When I took it in college, we met 4 hours a week to cover the same material. These sessions are a great chance to work more problems, work on your understanding, and (time permitting) get some homework help.

Required Textbook:

Vector Calculus, Susan Colley, 4th edition. The edition number is important, because your homework assignments will be taken from here.

Blackboard:

I will post homework, reading, other announcements, and grades on Blackboard. You will also answer the daily questions on it.

Grading:

Daily Questions / Participation (10%).

Homework (25%).

2 midterms (20% each),

Final Exam (25%).

Daily Questions / Participation (10%).

I don't want to come to class each day and tell you what the book already says. Because of this, you need to read the book beforehand; we can have better discussions when we're on the same page about the material, and the examples I do will be more meaningful for you. You don't need to have full mastery, but take note of definitions, theorems, and worked examples. To encourage this, you must answer a few questions before each class. You must go to Blackboard by 7:30am the day of class to answer these questions (click on the "Daily Questions" link on the left). These will not be graded for correctness, only that you made a legitimate attempt at them. These will also be helpful to me to see what I need to emphasize in class. Part of participation is also being in class, on time, and participating. I can take away points here if this is a recurring problem. Do all of this, and this is an easy 100%.

Late Work: Blackboard will shut down the questions at 7:30am. Since each one is such a small part of your grade (but as a whole, they add up!), no late work will be accepted.

Homework (25%).

The best way to learn the tools and concepts in this course is practice! Homework will be assigned each week, some required and some suggested. Each Friday (generally), you will turn it in. Show your work, and use words to describe what you are doing. Your lowest homework grade will be dropped at the end of the semester.

Honor Code: You may (should!) work together on these problems, but your written solutions must be your own. In particular, you should not be reading another student's final written solutions, and someone shouldn't be simply telling you the answer to a problem. You may use the book and your notes, and of course come talk to me! You may not use solutions manuals. Feel free to use computers to do calculations but keep in mind that 1) you must justify your answers so that someone can follow what you're doing – you can't just say "Wolfram Alpha says the answer is three" – and 2) you will not be able to use these tools on the in-class exams.

Late Work: They are due at 4pm, generally on Fridays. If you do not hand them in at class, I will leave an envelope out for you to put them in. If they are handed in by the time the grader collects them from my office (no guarantees when that is), you get full credit. If they are not, you get a 0 (but your lowest grade will be dropped at the end of the semester).

2 Midterm Exams (20% each).

These will have an in-class component (closed book, with a page of notes allowed), followed by a couple of take-home problems due the next class period. The in-class components will be Wednesday, March 2 and Wednesday, April 6.

Final Exam (25%).

Section 1: Thursday, May 12, 9-11am.

Section 2: Wednesday, May 11, 7-9pm.

The final will be an in-class exam and will cover the entire course, with a slight concentration towards the more recent material.

Disabilities:

If you have a disability of any sort that may affect your performance in this class, please consult with me and with Jane Boomer in the Office of Disability Services. All requests for accommodation must go through that office.