BRIEF SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT COURSE INFORMATION AND POLICIES

Course: Math 44 - Differential Equations  
Instructor: Dr. Nsoki Mavinga

Office/Hours:
SC 155; Wednesday: 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM, and Friday 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Phone: (610) 957-6197
E-mail: nmaving1@swarthmore.edu

Meeting times/location: MWF 9:30 AM – 10:20 AM, SC L32

Text: These textbooks are on reserve at Cornell library.

Other Resources: This textbook is on reserve at Cornell library.
• A second Course in Elementary Differential Equations, , by Paul Waltman, Dover

Prerequisites:
Linear algebra and several-variable calculus or permission of the instructor.

Website:
hp://moodle.swarthmore.edu. Check the Moodle page regularly for announcements.

Aims of the course:
This course is an introduction to differential equations that has a more theoretical flavor. Problems are considered from analytical, qualitative, and numerical viewpoints, with an emphasis on the formulation of differential equations and the interpretations of their solutions. This course introduces the key ideas of ordinary differential equations in a theoretical framework. Topics will include: existence and uniqueness theorems, properties of solutions, asymptotic behavior, linear autonomous systems, non-linear systems, stability theory.

Grading:
• 2 midterm exams
  Exam 1 (32%): Thursday, February 28, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM, SCI L32
  Exam 2 (32%): Thursday, May 02, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM, SCI L32
• (Graded) Homework (30%)
• Presentation (6%)
Homework:
Homework will be assigned weekly. It will be announced/distributed in class or posted to Moodle later on in the day. The assignment will be collected at the beginning of Monday’s class and will be graded. To get a full credit for a solution to a homework problem, you have to provide full, detailed and well organized solution. The homework problems that will be collected must be typed and each problem must start on a separate page. You may use TeX or any other text editor for this purpose. Since the homework grade constitutes 30% of your course grade, it is strongly recommended that you attend lectures on a regular basis and complete all homework assignments when due. Late assignments will not be accepted.

Presentation:
Each student will be responsible for a presentation during the semester. The length of the presentations, and whether you will work alone or in pairs/groups, depends on how many people sign up for the course.

Midterm:
There will be two midterm exams, given on Thursday, February 28 and on Thursday, May 02, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, SCI L32.

Getting help:
(Other than office hours) The math/stat department runs a help clinic Sunday through Thursday night from 7 to 10 in the math/stat lounge.

Special Accommodation:
If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, please contact Leslie Hempling in the Office of Student Disability Services (Parrish 130) or email lhempli1@swarthmore.edu to arrange an appointment to discuss your needs. Leslie Hempling is responsible for reviewing and approving disability-related accommodation requests. As appropriate, she will issue students with documented disabilities an Accommodation Authorization Letter. Since accommodations require early planning and are not retroactive, please contact her as soon as possible. For details about the Student Disability Service and the accommodations process, visit http://www.swarthmore.edu/student-life/academic-advising-and-support/student-disability-services.xml. You are also welcome to contact me [the faculty member] privately to discuss your academic needs. However, all disability-related accommodations must be arranged through Leslie Hempling in the Office of Student Disability Services.

Common Courtesies for Any Class:
• Please arrive for class a few minutes early so that class can begin without interruption. If there is a problem, let the instructor know.
• If you need to leave class early, it is polite to tell the instructor before the class starts. Class attendance is expected.
• Putting your head on your desk resting or sleeping during class is rude. If you need sleep, please go to your room or home - not to class.