

MATH 617-010  
TR 9:30–10:45, EWG 210

Techniques of Applied Mathematics  
Spring 2019

Web Page: <http://www.math.udel.edu/~edwards/download/m617/s19home.html>  
(also referenced from QR code at end of document)

Instructor: Prof. D. A. Edwards  
EWG 511

Office Hours: M 9:30–10:30, W 1:30–2:30 or by appointment  
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## Introduction

Welcome to MATH 617! In this course you will be learning not only the mathematical techniques used in applied mathematics, but also how they are actually used in practice to analyze physical systems. The texts for this course are as follows:

Required:

Guenther, Ronald B., and Lee, John W. *Partial Differential Equations of Mathematical Physics and Integral Equations*. New York: Dover, 1996.  
Logan, J. David. *Applied Mathematics*, 4th ed. New York: Wiley, 2013.

In addition, upon request I will put other books on reserve in the Morris Library that may prove helpful for certain sections.

If you have a problem, question about the material, or interesting application you would like me to address in class, please feel free to contact me during my office hours or make an appointment. **Extra copies of handouts are available at the Web page listed above.**

Please silence cellular phones before entering the classroom. There will be no makeup classes for snow days unless mandated by the University.

## Electronic Communication

The Web page for this course is listed above: there you will find copies of handouts available for downloading. Important announcements (corrections to typographical errors, etc.) will be handled by e-mail. Also at the URL

<http://www.math.udel.edu/~edwards/download/suggest.html>

you will find an anonymous suggestion box.

## Homework

The most effective way to succeed in this course is to do all the homework assignments. I select the problems carefully to illustrate the most important topics in the course. Even if you are registered as a listener, I recommend doing the homework, and I will review it.

In most cases, homework will be distributed every Thursday during lecture and it will be due at the beginning of class the following Thursday. (The first homework assignment is attached to this sheet.) The homework will ideally cover material up through the day it is distributed. **ABSOLUTELY NO LATE HOMEWORK WILL BE ACCEPTED!** If you must miss a due date because of University business, it is your responsibility to make sure the homework gets to me *before* the due date. Since mathematics is a subject where the material for one section builds on the section before, it is critical that you keep up to date on the homework: hence the stringent policy. However, to calculate your semester-long homework average, I will drop your two lowest homework scores. Therefore, low scores for assignments where you were pressed for time can be erased as long as you don't have too many of them.

Though you may not copy directly from another's paper or use someone else's ideas (including online aids) as your own<sup>1</sup>, I encourage you to discuss the homework problems with your classmates. Any scientific endeavor is rarely done in a vacuum; therefore it is to your advantage to learn the benefits of collaborating. Model homework solutions will be posted on the Web after the assignment is due. Hopefully these will assist you in learning the material.

Homework assignments should be folded like a book with the following information on the "front cover:"

Name  
MATH 617—Edwards  
Assignment Number  
Date

You will turn in your assignments this way so that I can put your grade on the inside, thus ensuring your privacy. I will make every effort to ensure that your graded homework is returned in a timely manner. The number of points assigned to each problem will be listed.

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<sup>1</sup> For more details regarding academic dishonesty, see the Student Handbook (<http://www.udel.edu/stuguide/>).

## Exams

There will be a midterm and final exam for the course; the dates are listed on the attached schedule. **You will need a small blue book for each exam.** Attached to the midterm will be a course evaluation form so that I may receive your suggestions for how the course could be improved. These forms will be seen only by me, so if you have comments that you wish the department to hear, please contact them directly.

When the exams are returned, they will have a numerical score and a letter grade on them. The numerical score is your score for the exam; *the letter grade is your grade for the course to that point, including all homework scores.*

## Writing Assignment

As each of you proceeds in your career, you will encounter situations where you will have to communicate your ideas to others. Those in academia have to submit theses and research articles; those in industry must make presentations and write reports. In order to prepare you for this sometimes daunting task, I am assigning a **MANDATORY** writing assignment. In it, you will choose a phenomenon which interests you, create a simple model to describe it, and then solve the equations governing the model using the techniques you have learned in this class. The focus of the assignment will be the clarity of the expression contained therein, rather than the mathematical sophistication of the arguments. Further details will follow.

## Assessment

Your grade for the course will be determined in two stages. First your *raw score* will be calculated using the *higher* of the two algorithms:

- 1) Each exam will count for  $1/3$  of your grade; the other  $1/3$  will be split between the homework and the writing assignment.
- 2) The writing assignment will count for  $1/6$  of your grade; the other  $5/6$  will be split evenly between the homework and exams.

Then each of the raw scores will be scaled to determine final grades, if necessary.

## Tentative Schedule

**Note:** This is only a tentative schedule; you may expect deviations from it.

week of February 11: classification of second-order equations, separation of variables

February 11: Homework 1 distributed

week of February 18: separation of variables, Fourier series

February 21: Homework 1 due; Homework 2 distributed

week of February 25: the heat equation, Sturm-Liouville problems

February 28: Homework 2 due; Homework 3 distributed

week of March 4: Sturm-Liouville problems

March 7: Homework 3 due; Homework 4 distributed

week of March 11: Green's functions, Fredholm alternative, generalized eigenvalue problems

**March 12: Topic of writing assignment due**

March 14: Homework 4 due; Homework 5 distributed

week of March 18: Fredholm alternative, generalized eigenvalue problems, Fourier transforms

March 21: Homework 5 due; Homework 6 distributed

week of March 25: Fourier and Laplace transforms

March 28: Homework 6 due; Homework 7 distributed

**week of April 1: Spring Break (no class)**

week of April 8: Laplace transforms, wave equation solutions

**April 9: Midterm Exam distributed**

**April 11: Outline of writing assignment due**

week of April 15: Bessel functions, Laplace's equation

April 18: Homework 7 due; Homework 8 distributed

week of April 22: Poisson's integral formula, Legendre polynomials

April 25: Homework 8 due; Homework 9 distributed

week of April 29: the Navier-Stokes equations

May 2: Homework 9 due; Homework 10 distributed

week of May 6: the Navier-Stokes equations

May 9: Homework 10 due; supplemental study material distributed

May 14: Fredholm integral equations, the elastica

May 16: formal review session

**May 16: Writing assignment due**

