

MATH 6318.001 (26124) Syllabus
Numerical Analysis of Differential Equations
Spring 2015, TuTh 4:00–5:15 pm, CB3 1.304

Instructor: Dr. Minkoff

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Note that I will maintain a web page for this course linked from my main web page. (I do not use eLearning.)

Office Hours: Tuesdays 3–4pm or by appointment.

Prerequisite: Math 6313 or an equivalent Numerical Analysis course, and knowledge of programming in general and MATLAB in particular. Note that we will be using Matlab exclusively in this course. It is highly recommended that all students taking this course will have been exposed to an introductory pde's course and will have a working knowledge of MATLAB.

Course Description (from the catalog): This course covers practical and theoretical aspects of numerical methods for both ordinary and partial differential equations. Topics may include initial value problems for ordinary differential equations, two-point boundary value problems, projection methods, finite difference, finite element and boundary element approximations for partial differential equations.

Texts — Recommended:

(1) *Numerical Analysis: Mathematics of Scientific Computing*, 3rd Edition, by Kincaid and Cheney. Publisher: Brooks/Cole, 2002.

(2) *Finite Difference Schemes and Partial Differential Equations*, by Strikwerda. Publisher: SIAM, 2007.

(3) *Numerical Methods for Differential Equations – Fundamental Concepts for Scientific and Engineering Applications*, by Celia and Gray. Publisher: Prentice Hall, 1992.

(4) *Partial Differential Equations: Analytical and Numerical Methods*, by Mark Gockenbach. Publisher: SIAM, 2011.

Note: There are numerous books which cover either finite difference or finite element methods. However, there is no one perfect book covering both methods at an introductory level. I will be using a variety of books for lecture preparation and expect that you should rely on your class notes as your primary “text” for the course. However, students often find it helpful to have supplemental sources to study from so I would encourage you to consider buying at least the book by Strikwerda listed above.

Useful MATLAB Reference: *Mastering MATLAB*, by Hanselman and Littlefield. Publisher: Prentice Hall, Inc.

Grading Policy:

Homework	40%
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%
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Total	100%

Homework: There will be one homework due every 1–2 weeks on Thursdays (the length of time will depend on the difficulty of the assignment). Homework is to be turned in at the START of class on Thursday or can be slipped under my office door *prior* to class on Thursday if you must miss class for some reason. *Late homework will not be accepted.*

Please note that the homework constitutes a substantial portion of your overall grade. In order to learn the concepts and be able to apply them to solving problems on exams, etc., you are strongly encouraged to devote as much time as possible to working the homework problems. It is possible that not all homework problems will be able to be graded, but most of your learning will come from devoting good chunks of time each week to the homework. I encourage you to discuss the homework assignments with other students in the class. However, I expect the homework you submit for grading to be written up by you alone (this includes computer programs which must not be duplicates of programs other students turn in).

Tests: No make-up exams will be given except *possibly* in the case of a serious emergency. In such a case I *must* be notified *in advance*. There will be no exceptions to taking the final exam at the date, time, and place specified by the University (TBD). The final exam will be comprehensive although material covered after the midterm will be emphasized.

Learning Goals and Course Motivation: This course is intended as an introductory course in numerical solution of both ordinary and partial differential equations. It is appropriate for beginning graduate students who have some experience with partial differential equations (through a separation of variables course or an application area).

Many physical phenomena are modeled by differential equations. The canonical models are the heat, wave, and potential equations. When the coefficients in a pde model are not constant or the domain is complex, these pde's cannot be solved via analytic methods (e.g., by writing down a closed form solution). One must resort to *approximating* the solution on a computer. The approximation error in these solutions arises from a variety of sources (including the fact that one cannot take a limit on a computer and must approximate derivatives and integrals by divided differences and finite sums respectively). In this course we will focus on Taylor series methods (including Runge Kutta) and single and multistep methods for solving ode's as well as the two most common techniques for solving pde's numerically: finite difference and finite element methods.

After taking this course you will have a basic understanding of how to implement and analyze all of these methods and will be aware of the error in using these methods to approximate solutions to differential equations on a computer. You will know which methods to use to best approximate solutions for each type of equation and will be able to modify your solution to achieve the desired accuracy needed for your application.

Academic Conduct: I take academic dishonesty *very seriously* and will not tolerate it in this class in any form. Academic misconduct includes willfully cheating on or giving aid

during an exam or copying homework assignments (from the web, from each other, or from a solutions manual). Blatant copying on an exam, homework assignment, or computer assignment will result in a grade of zero for that work. Further information on the academic conduct policy can be found at <http://www.utdallas.edu/deanofstudents/dishonesty/>

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures:

The information at <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> constitutes the University's policy and procedures segment of the course syllabus.

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.

Class Attendance: I expect students to attend class and to turn up **on time**. Rarely do students do well in classes which they do not attend, and I will be less likely to give outside assistance to students who regularly miss class. Further, students arriving late for class disrupt the entire class. Students who consistently turn up more than a few minutes late for class or who miss more than 3 classes may be docked points from their final grade.

Email: I am happy to answer questions about the class via email. However, I will not respond to email which does not include the name of the sender. Also, students should be aware that discussions of class concepts and involved homework questions are best asked in person during office hours. I reserve the right not to answer an email question if I feel the topic would best be discussed in person.

Tips for Succeeding in this Class:

1. Before you attempt the homework you should *read the sections in books if appropriate and study your notes*.
2. You will benefit greatly from working with others in the class so long as you use your peers as a way to hash over concepts and not a way to "get the answers". In other words, *start early* and use your fellow-classmates to discuss the best way to approach the problems. Then go off and try to work out the details yourself.
3. **Begin the new homework assignment the same day you turn in the previous assignment!** Do not wait 3–4 days to start the homework as then you will not have enough time to digest the material or understand the point of the problems. When computer assignments are given starting early on the homework is essential. Debugging programs takes time and your grade and learning will suffer if you attempt the computer problems at the last minute.
4. Come to office hours and get help if you are stuck. It is much better to get help early than to wait. I may ask you to show me what you've come up with at the board so you should have at least attempted the homework problems before asking for help.

Important Dates:

Date	Notes
1/12/15	First day of class
1/20/15	Last day to register and last day to add/drop
3/10/15	Midterm Exam
4/2/15	Absolute Last day to drop class
5/2/15	Last day of classes
TBD	Final Exam