Math 103 (Introduction to Calculus)
Fall 2016
MWF 11:00-11:50 a.m., DRL A1
University of Pennsylvania

Welcome to Math 103! Calculus offers some of the most beautiful and useful ideas ever discovered, so I hope you are looking forward to exploring them together. Before we get to the good stuff, though, please take a moment to read about how the class is set up.

Instructor: Dr. William Simmons, DRL 4C3, `wsimmo@sas.upenn.edu`. (I will try to respond to emails in a timely fashion. However, we do have a sizeable class, so please be patient and contact me with enough time about upcoming issues. Thanks!)

Office Hours (held in DRL 4C3): Mondays, 12:00-1:00 p.m.; Fridays, 9:45-10:45 a.m.; others, time permitting, by appointment.

Teaching assistant: Zhaiming Shen, `zhaiming@math.upenn.edu`; office hours (held in DRL 3N2C): Tuesdays, 11-noon; Thursdays, 2-3 p.m.

Canvas: We will use the Canvas system (`https://canvas.upenn.edu`) as our homepage. Look there for assignments, announcements, and grades. Be sure to check the announcements regularly for changes to assignment due dates or other information.

Textbook and MyMathLab: Thomas' Calculus, Second Custom Edition for the University of Pennsylvania (with MyMathLab access code), Pearson. To come bundled with the access code to MyMathLab (which we will use), the book must be bought in the University bookstore (this same text is used in Math 104 and Math 114). Otherwise, you can purchase the code on the MyMathLab website.

Exam and other important dates:

- Add deadline: Monday, Sept. 19.

- First midterm: Wednesday, Sept. 21, in class.

- Drop deadline: Monday, Oct. 10.

- Second midterm: Wednesday, Oct. 19, in class.

- Withdrawal deadline: Friday, Nov. 11.

- Third midterm: Wednesday, Nov. 16, in class.

- Last day of classes: Monday, Dec. 12.

- Final exam: Monday, Dec. 19, 9-11:00 a.m., location TBA.

MyMathLab: You will work practice problems to help you improve your proficiency with the basic tools. To sign up, go to http://www.pearsonmylabandmastering.com/northamerica/mymathlab/ and use the following information:

- Course Name: Math 103, Introduction to Calculus

- Course ID: simmons21321

- Your personal access code

Your first MyMathLab assignment is due by 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, September 7.

Assignments: Written assignments are generally due at the beginning of class on Fridays; any changes will be announced through Canvas. *Late work will not be accepted*, so please talk to me ahead of time if you face a legitimate extenuating circumstance. Your two lowest homework scores will be dropped.

Quizzes: Most weeks during recitation there will be a quiz. Quizzes will be short (15 minutes at most), cover recent material, and are intended to be straightforward if you are keeping up. You may not use electronic devices, but you may use one 8.5×11 formula sheet (both sides). Several times during the semester there will be an attendance "quiz" at the end of class. Your two lowest quiz scores will be dropped.

Exams: There are three midterm exams (on Wednesday 9/21, 10/19, and 11/16), all held in class. The final exam is Monday, Dec. 19, from 9-11:00 a.m.; the location is TBA.

To help smooth things over, the lowest of your three midterm scores will be replaced by the average of all your scores.

As with quizzes, you may use one 8.5×11 formula sheet (both sides) but no electronic devices.

Grades: Grades are approximately determined by the following breakdown

- 5% MyMathLab, 15% assignments, 10% quizzes, 40% midterms, 30% final

according to the following scale:

- A: At least 88% of available points

- A−: 80-87% of available points

- B+: 75-79% of available points

- B: 70-74% of available points

- B−: 65-69% of available points

- C+: 60-64% of available points

- C: 55-59% of available points

- C−: 50-54% of available points

- D+: 45-49% of available points

- D: 40-44% of available points

- F: Below 40% of available points

These are "approximate" because the actual number of A's, B's, etc., available to our section depends on our performance on the common final exam (university and department policy for multi-section courses). In practice this doesn't change things too much, so you can always have a pretty good idea of how you are doing.

Errors in recording and/or grading must be brought up within a week of the assignment being returned. Grades are determined by the numbers, so please don't request exceptions.

Keys to success in Math 103:

- (Background knowledge) You should be able to carry out basic algebra and trigonometry without too much difficulty. Some rust on topics you understood well in the past can be worked through, but if you have serious difficulties with these tools or never really mastered them, we should talk about options to help you. In addition, you need to be curious about mathematics and be willing to think through the material we discuss.

- (Submitted work) Write neatly and show all relevant work needed to understand your thought process. Incomprehensible and/or messy answers may not receive credit. The emphasis is on clear written explanations as well as explicit calculations. Be sure to use complete sentences and correct grammar in your work.

- (Tips) This is a challenging class. Here are some quick tips:

  - Be consistent in your studying and keep up with online and written homework.
  - Study beforehand the material we will discuss in class (enough to know what you do and don't understand so you can focus on the problem areas).
  - When you study a new concept, explain it to yourself in terms you understand and make connections with things you have already learned.
  - Be organized in taking notes and write just enough to remember the main points but not so much that you can't think as we're discussing. Afterwards, study your in-class notes.
  - Lastly (but very importantly), when you encounter concepts that aren't clear, identify what you are confused about and ask me, Zhaiming, and each other *lots of questions* until you understand.

- (Getting help) There are *many* resources to help you succeed in Math 103, so be sure to take advantage of them:

  1. Recitation sections exist to help you learn the material. Make the most of the opportunity: Come prepared and ask questions.
  2. Come to office hours (both mine and the Zhaiming's).
  3. You should seriously consider attending the *Calculus Start-up Program.* Details are at `http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/tutoring/calculusstartup.php`

4. Look at the math department's resources for Math 103 at `https://www.math.upenn.edu/ugrad/calc/m103/`.

5. Soon after the beginning of each term (usually the third week), the math department sponsors drop-in help at the Education Commons and campus residences. See `http://www.math.upenn.edu/ugrad/calc/help/help.html` for the schedule and locations. (This is a hidden gem; this service has been historically underutilized, so you should be able to get a lot of personal attention.)

6. The Tutoring Center, which provides opportunities such as free tutoring appointments on campus as well as online basic math tutorials: `http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/tutoring/index.php`

7. MyMathLab has tutorial videos that may be helpful in your study. Other helpful videos on calculus topics are those at `https://www.math.upenn.edu/ugrad/calculus-videos/pennmathvideos.html`.

8. The Weingarten Learning Resources Center helps Penn students improve their academic performance: `http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/lrc/`.

9. The math department maintains a list of tutors-for-hire: `http://www.math.upenn.edu/ugrad/tutors.html`

Academic Honesty:

- Do your best and don't compromise your integrity or your academic progress by cheating.

- You are welcome (and encouraged) to study together, talk about problems with others, look at math resources online, etc., but you need to write your final solution on your own (i.e., no copying, whether it be another student's solution or something online).

- Infractions will result in loss of credit for the exam or assignment and, depending on the situation, university discipline. For more details, see `http://www.upenn.edu/academicintegrity/`.

Accommodations: Please talk to me as soon as possible about accommodations through Student Disabilities Services (Stouffer Commons, 3702 Spruce Street, Suite 300, `http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/lrc/sds/`), scheduling conflicts with religious holidays, athletic events, etc., or working around health issues and other situations.

Above all, let me know if you have questions or concerns. Best of luck for a great semester!