

Math 120A Information Sheet

Fall Semester 2000

PCTR 109 MWF 9:35 – 10:25

Instructor: Professor Mark W. Johnson

Office: CCMB 320 (This is the building at the left foot of touchdown Jesus.)

Phone: 631-3981 (From a campus phone, dial only the last five digits.)

email: johnson.295@nd.edu

This is the best way to contact the instructor. After any discussion of an administrative problem, the student should email the instructor a reminder of the situation and the agreed-upon solution, thereby providing a “paper trail” for the instructor to follow later. Email may also be used for very specific mathematical questions, but speaking in person is far more effective for complex discussions.

Course Website: <http://www.nd.edu/~mjohnso1/Math120/index.html>

Office Hours: M 12:45–1:35 PM, W 2–3 PM and by appointment.

Office hours are the most underused resource at most universities. This is an opportunity to discuss concerns with the instructor, receive tutoring (often one–on–one) or to give the instructor some feedback. Similar individual tutoring would generally cost at least \$30 an hour!

Text: Single Variable Calculus **Fourth Edition** by James Stewart, available at the Notre Dame bookstore and elsewhere.

Textbook Supplement, available at The Copy Shop in the LaFortune Student Center (labeled course packet #29).

Homework: Homework will be assigned and collected weekly in recitation section. There will be eleven graded homework assignments worth five points each, and the lowest score will be dropped. Thus, only a portion of the assigned homework will be graded. However, *completing the homework assignments regularly and carefully will be the most important single factor for success in this course.* Solving only a portion of hard problems will help students to ask specific questions and maximize the effectiveness of class discussions. Most class meetings will begin with the instructor taking questions concerning homework problems. Those uncomfortable with asking questions in class are encouraged to email the instructor their questions at least 30 minutes before class, or to come to office hours. Students are also encouraged to work together and help

one another, although simply copying another student's homework will be effectively useless to the learning process. Attempting to help another student through a difficulty often greatly increases one's understanding of the material.

Examinations: There will be three midterm exams and a final exam. An unexcused absence from any of these exams will result in a grade of zero for the exam. If you are absent with a valid excuse you will be given a make-up test at a later time. Excused absences must be arranged through the offices of the Vice President of Student Affairs or the Dean of First Year. Contacting your instructor on the night before or morning of an exam to say you are dizzy, nauseated, etc. will **NOT** be sufficient grounds for an excused absence. Similarly, an airline ticket or a ride home that leaves before an exam is **NOT** a valid excuse for missing the exam.

After each exam, a scale for assigning letter grades will be announced. These are intended only as guidelines, for students to judge their progress. *Any student in the D or below range is expected to meet with the instructor within a week after the exam is returned, in order to discuss difficult concepts or options for extra help.* Students should also keep in mind that plus/minus grades will come from the top/bottom portion of the indicated ranges in the final grading scheme. For example, if the B range is announced as 80–89, an 81 is actually a B– rather than a B.

Calculators: A scientific calculator (capable of computing exponents but not a graphing calculator) will be necessary for certain homework problems. However, *the exams will be written so that calculators will NOT be necessary and will NOT be permitted.* The focus will be on understanding the answers and the process of finding them. This means no student will have an advantage over any other because one calculator has more options, etc.

The First Year Learning Resource Center is a great source of help for first-year students. They offer a variety of tutoring and group work environments to assist students with specific trouble areas or improving study habits. See their flier for more details.

	Date	Day	Time	Room	Points
Midterm 1	Sept. 21	Thursday	8:00–9:15 AM	Libr 107	100
Midterm 2	Oct. 26	Thursday	8:00–9:15 AM	Libr 107	100
Midterm 3	Nov. 28	Tuesday	8:00–9:15 AM	Libr 107	100
Final	Dec. 15	Friday	1:45–3:45 PM	TBA	150
Homework	collected weekly throughout the semester				50
Total Points:					500