MATH113: Analytic Geometry and Calculus I – FALL 2020

Instructor: Dr. Harbir Lamba
E-mail: hlamba@gmu.edu (only email me from your official GMU email account please.)
Office: Exploratory Hall, Room 4459 (not that I will be there much!)
Office Hours: 1.30–2.30
Webpage: http://math.gmu.edu/~harbir/m113/ .

Textbook: Thomas' Calculus (early transcendentals) 14th edition with access to the
                 online materials. The course will cover almost all of the first 5 Chapters.

COVID-19 arrangements

Every week (after the first) I will produce a video covering the material for the following week. It is your responsibility to study these as well as reading the relevant sections in the book. The online materials that come with the book are also very helpful but you should try to attempt questions yourself first 'closed book' before using them.

My current plan is that, after week 1, during the first part of the Tuesday classtime I will be available for virtual office hours where you can email me with questions and I will respond very quickly. Then every Thursday from 1.30 to 2.30 we will have an online session, using Blackboard Collaborate (or maybe zoom), which everyone is strongly encouraged, but not required, to attend. During these I will go through some of the homework questions and address any issues that come up. We'll see how that goes and I reserve the right to change things if it's not going well and/or I think of a better way to do things.

The Teaching Assistant for your recitation class is Matthew South and the Learning Assistant is Ashley Herbert. They will each have office hours too.

As you will very soon see, I have never used Blackboard before and I want to use it as little as I can get away with this semester too. But there may be things I need to use it for. So check the course home page listed above frequently but also Blackboard too.

Tests and Grading

Homework questions will be set after each section is completed. These will not be collected or graded but you are STRONGLY advised to attempt them and write out your solutions as if they would be. You are encouraged to discuss these problems amongst yourselves and to make use of the office hours. But you will not benefit unless you have made a serious attempt beforehand. Note that the list of homework questions is the ABSOLUTE MINIMUM you should be doing each week. You should attempt as many questions as you feel you need to.

The course will be evaluated with 3 online tests during the classtimes on Tuesday September 22nd, Thursday October 22nd, and Tuesday November 17th. Your 2 best results (relative to the class average for that test) will each contribute 25% towards the evaluation and the remaining 50% will come from a (cumulative) online final exam on Tuesday December 15th. I shall explain the grading system in more detail in the first lecture[1]. If you miss more than one of the classtime exams then you will need to provide very good (and fully-documented) reasons for missing EACH of them. There will be NO make-up tests, alternative test dates, or 'extra-credit' assignments. You are expected to abide by the University Honor Code and all suspected violations will be reported to the Honor Committee (that is especially true this semester). No outside materials will be allowed during any of the examinations. Details of the form of the exams and how they will be administered will be given nearer the time.

---

[1]NOTE: I DO NOT GRADE ON A CURVE. The formula I use to rank you involves the class average but the grade boundaries are determined by absolute, not relative, performance! If you all deserve an A grade then you will all get an A grade. If you all deserve to fail then you will all fail. I only take the class average into account to cancel out any differences in the difficulty of the tests.

Additional Remarks:

1) In addition to our office hours there is still help available for this course at the Math Tutoring Centre.

3) If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability Resources at 703 993 2474 as soon as possible. All academic accommodations *must* be arranged through that office.

4) It is YOUR responsibility to regularly check the course webpage, Blackboard, and your official university email address for announcements.

5) Please check the course webpage or this syllabus for the answers to any questions you may have before emailing me.