

calculus

c o u r s e e x p e c t a t i o n s

PACKER COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE | 2009-2010

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greetings!

Howdy! This year we are going to discover beautiful, useful and extraordinary islands of knowledge. I'm going to be challenging you consistently as you build bridges from island to island – from derivatives to integrals to strange graphs to 3-D figures. These islands will provide resting places for our adventures, while we explore what great things these paradises have to offer. Still, any adventure isn't an adventure unless there is uncertainty, unexpected perils. *I can promise you that you will not be immune from confusion, wandering dazed and confused.*

But don't worry! Yes, at times it will be hard – all good adventures are – but rest assured that I'm always going to be right there with you. I am here to tell you now: *we are in this together and we can conquer all.* In fact, I'm going to make sure we make it to the end of the year with lots of sparkling mathematical treasures to your name.

teaching goes both ways

With this said, you are now at a point in your education where you are responsible for your own learning. You are old enough to know what you need to do when you are having difficulty. Wait, are you? Pop quiz.

When you are feeling lost in class, you should:

- (a) wait until the next class and hope that it will all begin to make sense.
- (b) not do anything... it's only one concept and you know you'll be tested on a bunch, so it won't be a big deal to not learn it.
- (c) ask someone else for help – whether it be Mr. Shah, your desk partner, or a friend.
- (d) watch *America's Next Top Model* and hope that the concept will be explained during a photo shoot.

You are in this class to learn some math – and even though we are in this journey together (remember: **I am always on your side**), that does not absolve you of responsibility. For this class to operate smoothly, for us to have a good time, to get all we need to get accomplished in mere months, you need to

- ... come to class prepared every day
- ... spend quality time working on your homework daily
- ... not be afraid to ask questions about concepts or homework problems you are struggling with
- ... be an engaged participant in every class
- ... be kind and respectful to the other members of the class

If you keep your end of the bargain, I guarantee you that your mind will be brimming with intellectual riches at the end of the school year. You will have learned a lot.

Just as I expect only the best from you, I want you to expect the best from me. I promise to come to each class well-prepared, ready to embark on our daily adventures. I promise to try my best to make my presentations clear and interesting. I promise to respect you.

materials

You are required to have a 1/2" three-ring binder for this class. In this binder you must keep *hole punched graph paper*. (We will be doing a lot of graphing in this class.) You must do your homework on this graph paper, and on the top of the paper, write the following header:

Bruce Dennis
September 21, 2008
Section 3.1#1-5 (odd), 8, 9, 21, 25

[Name]
[Date **Assigned**]
[Section/Problems]

You also should come to class every day with a graphing calculator (TI-83 or TI-84) and a pencil. Allow me a single eccentricity: for this class, *do all your work in pencil*. Math done in pen is hard to undo – and I want you to get comfortable making mistakes, and erasing. **You will not get credit for homework done in pen; you will have to recopy quizzes, or tests done in pen.** Seriously. No, like, seriously.

You can take class notes in a notebook or in your binder. Up to you.

safety

Your safety is my number one concern, and mathematics can get treacherous at times. My number one rule is: *do not divide by zero, lest your paper busts into flames.*

absences

If you are absent for a test or quiz, you have exactly three **school** days to make it up **during study hall**. If you do not make it up by the third day, you will get an automatic 0.

The general policy if you *didn't* miss a test or quiz: if you are absent for n **class** days, you have n **school** days to get credit for your homework. So, for example, if you missed 3 class days, you have 3 school days to leave your homework for me to check on my desk. If it is not there by 3:10pm of the third day you've been back in school, you will get an automatic 0.

cheating

The crux of this is "don't." And for all the discussions that we have at Packer around what constitutes cheating, I believe you know what it is. So don't exchange answers on an exam or quiz, tell a student in another section of the class problems on the exams, or do other morally bankrupt things. But seriously, my fundamental assumption is that you, my intrepid mathematical explorers, are good people. So don't prove me wrong. If you ever have a question about if something is cheating, just ask me.


If you do cheat, and I find out, not only have you destroyed my seemingly unflagging faith in humanity, but you will get a 0 on the assignment and your parents and advisor and the class dean will be notified immediately. Read the Packer Student Handbook for more information.

An important note, however, is that I encourage you to talk with other students about concepts, homework problems, etc. You can talk with others about the homework problems, but when you write them up, you must write them up separately. You cannot copy homework from others. Again, if you have questions, please just ask me.

email:

I am an email junkie and I will be checking my email multiple times a day – usually until very late. However, *I don't guarantee a response to anything sent after 5pm.*

On the topic of email:

 <p>hey, i have break free tomorrow. can u meet? i like cabbage.</p>	<p>Howdy Mr. Shah!</p> <p>I have been having some difficulty understanding how to divide complex numbers. Do you have any time to meet Tuesday (tomorrow) or Wednesday to help me out? I would really appreciate it.</p> <p>My frees are: Tuesday: Break, E, F Wednesday: Break, A, E.</p> <p>Thanks, STUDENT X</p>
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extra help:

I am always available to meet with students for additional support. My brain doesn't do well with times and dates, so I keep everything in my trusty planner. For my sanity, **send me an email with the topics you are confused by, the dates you can meet, and all the bands you are free.**

extra time on exams:

Some of you qualify for extra time on tests. If you want to use your extra time, **you must email me the night before – with all your possible free times – so that I can keep some time free for you. If you do not contact me the day before the test, you will not be allowed to use your extra time.** You must take your extra time on the same day of the exam. You have the right to extra time, but it comes with this basic responsibility.

I am dead serious about academic integrity and extra time brings up a host of issues. Most important, you cannot tell anyone what is on the exam, in ANY form, and you cannot study, ask questions, or open your book between when you first see the exam in class or break and when you finish your exam in class or break.

grading

Homework (20%):

There are two different kinds of homework: book homework (10%) and CalcPortal homework (10%). Each of you should have access to CalcPortal – where you can read the book online. You also will be given online assignments on CalcPortal.

You will be graded on your book homework in various ways. I do NOT accept late homework. I will sometimes:

- ...collect it and grade it for completeness (if you don't have it, you don't get credit)
- ...walk around the classroom to check for completeness (if you don't have it, you don't get credit)

Your homework must be more than just some chicken scratch and an answer. Part of this course is learning how to communicate math well. **You should show all your work, in a neat manner, so that someone reading it can follow your thought process.** Right answers aren't worth much in this class; right answers with solid work are.

If you worked with someone else on the homework, please write his or her name down on your homework sheet under your header.

Your CalcPortal homework will be graded on correctness. I will assign WebAssign homework at least once a week. These problems are for you to find out where gaps in your knowledge are. For some of the problems, you will get two chances to get the right answer!

Since CalcPortal is internet dependent, I will give at least two nights before the assignment is due. That being said, I will not accept "my internet is not working" as an excuse.

Formal Assessments (75%):

You know what these are. You will generally be allowed your graphing calculator for assessments, but there may be a few questions where you aren't allowed to use it. *I will not bring extra calculators to class – so remember to bring your own.* I will try my hardest to get assessments back to you in 3 class days (hopefully less), assuming all students in the class have already taken it.

As with homework, I need to emphasize that right answers only mean so much to me. More important is showing work, so you can effectively communicate to someone else your thought process. **Show your work on tests and quizzes** if you want credit!

This is a tough class, but I can promise you that assessments will look exactly like the problems you've done for homework, or that we've worked together in class. But there is a lot of material, and cramming the night before the test doesn't work. Trust me on this.

Classroom Engagement (5%):

Your classroom engagement grade will be based on your ability to focus and participate in class. You will lose points for being late or by distracting other classmates.

I must also state that depending on how things unfold this year, I reserve the right to change things from this set of expectations. If things will be changed, I promise to be very explicit about the changes.
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