

Instructor: Sharon B. Finger

Office: 257-E Peltier Hall

Office Phone: 448-4195
Office Hours: 3M, 6M, 3T, 5T

E-mail Address: sharon.finger@nicholls.edu

Math Dept.: 108 Peltier Hall
Math Dept. Phone: 448-4381

Course: **Differential Equations**
Math 355 / Section 2M
114 Peltier Hall
MWF 8:35- 9:30 a.m.

Course Website: <http://blackboard.nicholls.edu/>

Course Description: First-Order Differential Equations
Modeling
Analytic, Qualitative, and Numerical Solution Techniques
Existence and Uniqueness of Solutions
Equilibria and the Phase Line
Linear Differential Equations

First-Order Systems
Modeling
Geometry of Systems
Analytic, Qualitative, and Numerical Solution Techniques

Linear Systems
Properties and the Linearity Principle
Straight-Line Solutions
Phase Planes for Linear Systems with Real Eigenvalues
Complex Eigenvalues
Repeated and Zero Eigenvalues
Second-Order Linear Equations

Textbook: Differential Equations by Blanchard, Devaney, and Hall, 2nd Edition
(required)
ISBN: 0-534-38514-1

Calculator: Graphing Calculator (required)
TI-83 Plus recommended

Prerequisites: Minimum grade of C or better in Math 101 or minimum score of 23 on ACT MATH.

Grading Outline:	Tests (4 @ 100 pts. each)	400 pts.
	Graded Homework (4 @ 25 pts. each)	100 pts.
	<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>150 pts.</u>
	Total Course	650 pts.

Final Grade:	A:	585 – 650 pts.	(90 – 100%)
	B:	520 – 584 pts.	(80 – 89%)
	C:	455 – 519 pts.	(70 – 79%)
	D:	390 – 454 pts.	(60 – 69%)
	F:	< 390 pts.	(< 60%)

Class Conduct:

Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students are expected to arrive on time to eliminate class disruption. All students are expected to be quiet and attentive in class. Class is not over until the instructor dismisses it. Students should not pack their belongings until the class is dismissed. All cell phone and beeper ringers must be turned off for the duration of the class.

Attendance:

Students are expected to attend every class. Attendance will be taken daily. Lack of attendance is considered serious and will be handled as such. Submission of false documents for excuses will result in a grade of F for the course. It is the student's responsibility to obtain the material covered during an absence.

Reading Homework:

Reading Homework is a vital part of this course. Reading Homework will be assigned after each lecture on the course website under Reading Homework. It is the student's responsibility to read all assigned sections.

Practice Homework:

Practice Homework is a vital part of this course. Practice Homework will be assigned after each lecture on the course website under Practice Homework. Practice homework will neither be collected nor graded. It is the student's responsibility to complete the practice problems.

Graded Homework:

Graded Homework will be assigned at least once a week, but will not be turned in until a week or so before each test date. All due dates are noted on the course website under Graded Homework. The Graded Homework assignments are worth 25 points each. Only 3 randomly chosen problems will be graded, each worth 5 points. Completion of the assignment in entirety is worth 10 points. All work must be shown for full credit.

Final Exam:

The comprehensive Final Exam will be administered on **Wednesday, May 4, from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.**, in 114 Peltier Hall. **Students earning 450 or more course points (90% average) will be exempt from the Final Exam and will receive a grade of A for the course.**

Testing Procedures:

Any tests missed due to an unexcused absence will receive a grade of 0. Any tests missed due to an excused absence will be discussed with the instructor upon returning to class with proper documentation. An excused absence is an absence due to a serious illness, death in the family, university business, military service, or a court appearance. Submission of a false document for an excuse will result in a grade of F for the course. **Cheating will not be tolerated.** The university expects all students to maintain absolute integrity and a high standard of individual honor in all academic work. Students caught cheating will be disciplined according to the process described in Section 5 of the *Code of Student Conduct*. No talking, use of a cell phone, or wearing of a hat is allowed during test administration. A violation will result in a grade of 0 for the test. There is a link to the university's procedures regarding testing procedures and cheating on the course website.

Special Needs:

If a student has a documented disability that requires assistance, the student is required to register with the Office of Disability Services for the coordination of academic accommodations. The Office of Disability Services is located in Peltier Hall, Room 101, and can be reached at 448-4430 (TDD 449-7002).

Course Drop Date:

Thursday, April 7, 2005, is the final date for an automatic W when dropping a course or resigning from the university.

Note:

Please make use of my office hours. I am available to discuss homework, tests, and/or any concerns with the course. Please schedule an appointment for any consultations outside of these posted hours.