Partial Differential Equations

Classes: MWF 9:10–10:00, Bolton 003
Web page: http://calclab.math.tamu.edu/~fulling/m412

Instructor: S. A. Fulling
Blocker 620H
845–2237
fulling@math.tamu.edu

(Tentative) office hours: M 10:20–11:10, WR 3:00–3:45.

Prerequisite: M. 308 or 451 (differential equations). (M. 311 or other linear algebra will help, but is not required.)

Textbooks:

2. required: S. A. Fulling, Math 412 lecture notes, for sale at Copy Corner (2307 Texas Ave. S.).
4. optional, cheap: M. R. Spiegel (Schaum’s Outline Series), Fourier Analysis.

Grading system: Hour tests: $100 \times 3 = 300$
                  Final exam: 200
                  Homework and class participation: 200
                  Total 700

The “curve” will be at least as generous as the “standard” scale [i.e., 90% (= 630 pts) will guarantee an A, etc.].

Dates of hour tests: Sept. 24, Oct. 22, Nov. 19 (Fridays)
Final exam: Monday, Dec. 13, 8–10 a.m.
Please bring your own paper for tests.

Class participation: We will sometimes discuss homework problems and other examples at the blackboard (or projector) in class. Sometimes I’ll assign problems for you to work on in class in groups. At other times volunteers and random draftees will simply be called on. (You may also be called to the board to help me introduce a new concept or technique “Socratically”. In such cases a good participation score is attained merely by being alert and cooperative.) Attendance records may influence class participation scores slightly.
Make-up tests: Make-up tests are very hard to grade fairly, and they absorb a large amount of my time which would be better spent for the benefit of the whole class. Please cooperate in making these incidents as rare as possible. If you miss (or foresee that you will miss) a test, it is your responsibility to contact me as soon as possible to request, justify, and schedule a make-up test. (If you can’t reach me directly, you can leave a message at the Math Department office, (409) 845–3261.) If the absence is not clearly excused under the Attendance section of Student Rules, the request may be denied.


Plagiarism: Finding information in books or on the Internet is praiseworthy; lying (even by silence) about where it came from is academic dishonesty. Whenever you copy from, or “find the answer” in, some other source, give a footnote or reference. Otherwise, you are certifying that it is your own work.

Joint work: On a homework assignment (not a take-home test!) discussion with other students is permitted, even encouraged. However, the grader will not give homework credit for “work” that is parasitical (and your test scores will suffer, too!). To forestall problems, please follow these policies: (1) When two or more students work together on an assignment, they should all indicate so on their papers. (2) If the cooperation is of the divide-and-conquer variety, you are certifying that you have studied and understand every problem solution on your paper. Mindless copying is dishonest and academically worthless.

Calculators in exams: Calculators are to be used only to perform elementary operations such as addition, multiplication, and evaluation of simple functions such as square roots. Advanced facilities are prohibited, especially storing formulas in memory or executing programs to carry out algorithms that are part of the subject matter of the course. (Again, when in doubt, give a “footnote” describing what you did.) Violations of this rule may lead to total prohibition of calculators in exams (probably at the insistence of other students).

Copyright: Course materials (on paper or the Web) should be assumed to be copyrighted by the instructor who wrote them or by the University.

Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Department of Student Life, Services for Students with Disabilities, in Room 126 of the Koldus Building or call 845–1637.