### COURSE OUTLINE

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>MAT252</td>
<td>Differential Equations</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<th>Hours:</th>
<th>Co- or Pre-requisite</th>
<th>Implementation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lecture/Lab/Other</td>
<td>MAT152 or equivalent with a minimum C grade or consultation with the mathematics chair or course coordinator.</td>
<td>sem/year</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Lecture</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fall 2014</td>
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**Catalog description (2014-2015 Catalog):** Topics covered include solutions of ordinary differential equations including existence and uniqueness theorems, qualitative, numerical, and analytical methods of equations of first and second order, Cauchy-Euler equations, solutions by infinite series, systems of equations, and applications to modeling.

**Is the course New, Revised or Modified?** Modified Fall 2014

**Required texts/other materials**

A First Course in Differential Equations: The Classic Fifth Edition  
Dennis G. Zill  
Brooks/Cole

**Revision date:** Fall 2014  
**Course coordinator:** Daniel Rose  
609.570.3893  
rosed@mccc.edu

**Information resources:**

The Mercer County Community College Library has reference books available. There are many reference websites to which students may be referred. Students are also encouraged to utilize the Learning Centers for additional resources and/or tutoring. *MATLAB* is available for instructors to use for demonstration, or one class per week may be scheduled in AD234 if it is to be used more extensively throughout the course.
Course-specific General Education Knowledge Goals and Core Skills:

General Education Knowledge Goals

Goal 1. Communication. Students will communicate effectively in both speech and writing.
Goal 2. Mathematics. Students will use appropriate mathematical and statistical concepts and operations to interpret data and to solve problems.
Goal 3. Technology. Students will use computer systems or other appropriate forms of technology to achieve educational and personal goals.

MCCC Core Skills

Goal A. Written and Oral Communication in English. Students will communicate effectively in speech and writing, and demonstrate proficiency in reading.
Goal B. Critical Thinking and Problem-solving. Students will use critical thinking and problem solving skills in analyzing information.
Goal D. Information Literacy. Students will recognize when information is needed and have the knowledge and skills to locate, evaluate, and effectively use information for college level work.
Goal E. Computer Literacy. Students will use computers to access, analyze or present information, solve problems, and communicate with others.

In the Course Competencies/Goals list, General Education Knowledge Goals will be denoted GE and MCCC Core Skills will be denoted CS.

Course Competencies/Goals:

Students will demonstrate through quizzes, examinations, homework, and projects the ability to:

1. identify and classify various types of differential equations. (GE 1, 2, CS A, B)
2. calculate general and particular solutions of first order linear differential equations by qualitative, numerical, and analytical methods, which include separation of variables, homogeneous equations, exact equations, integrating factor, and Bernoulli methods. (GE 2, CS A, B, D E)
3. determine whether unique solutions are guaranteed to exist. (GE 2, CS A, B)
4. create and solve equations that model physical problems using appropriate methods. (GE 1, 2, 4 CS A, B, D, E)
5. calculate general and particular solutions of second order linear differential equations by various methods, which include reduction of order, undetermined coefficients, variation of parameters, and solutions by series. (GE 2, CS A, B, D, E)
6. define and use Laplace transforms to solve differential equations. (GE 2, CS A, B, E)
7. solve systems of first order linear equations using differential operator, Laplace transform, and matrix methods including finding eigenvalues and eigenvectors and interpreting solutions of linear systems. (GE 1, 2,4, CS A, B, E)
8. apply Euler’s and/or Picard’s method to find numerical solutions of first order initial value problems. (GE 1, 2, 4, CS A, B, D, E)
9. develop and interpret slope fields for differential equations. (GE 2, CS A, B, E)
10. use technology to solve differential equations and systems numerically and visualize, interpret, and communicate the results. (GE 1, 2, 4, CS A, B, D, E)
In the following Units of Study in Detail, Course Competencies/Goals will be denoted Course Goals.

**Units of study in detail:**

**I. Introduction to Differential Equations (1 week)**

At the end of Unit I, the student will be able to:

- classify differential equations. (Course Goal 1)
- verify that a function is a solution to a differential equation or an initial value problem. (Course Goal 1)
- analyze phase lines to find equilibrium solutions of autonomous first-order differential equations, determine their stability, and determine the general behavior of other solutions. (Course Goals 1,2)
- create, both by hand and using software, and use slope fields to sketch solution curves for first order differential equations. (Course Goals 2,9,10)
- apply Euler’s method to find numerical solutions to differential equations and describe the change in error based on the change in step size. (Course Goals 1,2,8,10)

**II. First-Order Differential Equations (3.5 weeks)**

At the end of Unit II, the student will be able to:

- state and use the existence and uniqueness theorem for first order initial value problems. (Course Goals 1,3)
- apply Picard’s Theorem to determine if a first-order initial value problem has a unique solution. (Course Goals 1,3)
- apply the techniques of separation of variables, homogeneous equations, exact equations, integrating factor, and Bernoulli to solve differential equations. (Course Goals 1,2,3,8,10)
- derive and solve differential equations that model motion in one direction, mixtures, and population growth. (Course Goals 2,4)
- determine if two families of curves are orthogonal trajectories of one another and find the orthogonal trajectory of a given family of curves. (Course Goals 2,10)

**III. Linear Differential Equations of Higher Order (3 weeks)**

At the end of Unit III, the student will be able to:

- state and interpret the existence and uniqueness theorem for linear higher order initial value problems. (Course Goals 1,3)
- calculate the Wronskian of a list of functions and use it to determine if the functions are linearly independent. (Course Goals 1,3)
- verify that a two-parameter family of functions is a general solution to a nonhomogeneous differential equation. (Course Goals 1,5)
- construct a second solution to a differential equation from a given solution. (Course Goals 1,5)
- utilize the characteristic equation to determine the complimentary solution to a homogeneous linear differential equation with constant coefficients. (Course Goals 1,5)
• calculate the general solution to a homogeneous linear differential equation with constant coefficients. (Course Goals 1,5,8,10)
• solve a second order differential equation by the method of undetermined coefficients. (Course Goals 1,5)
• apply the method of variation of parameters to solve linear non-homogeneous differential equations with variable coefficients. (Course Goals 1,5)

IV. Laplace Transforms (2 weeks)

At the end of Unit IV, the student will be able to:
• define the Laplace transform. (Course Goals 1,6)
• calculate the Laplace transform and inverse transform of given functions. (Course Goals 1,6)
• apply the Laplace translation theorems and Laplace transforms of derivatives to solve nth order linear differential equations with constant coefficients which have initial conditions. (Course Goals 1,6)
• apply Laplace transforms to solve integral equations. (Course Goals 1,6)
• apply appropriate methods to problems involving step functions, discontinuous forcing functions, and impulse functions and other applied problems (Course Goals 1,4,6)

V. Differential Equations with Variable Coefficients and Applications (extent of coverage determined by instructor) (2.5 weeks)

At the end of Unit V, the student will be able to:
• recognize and solve Cauchy-Euler differential equations. (Course Goals 1,5)
• apply power series techniques to solve differential equations around ordinary points and regular singular points. (Course Goals 1,5,8,10)
• integrate theory, skills and technology to solve problems involving harmonic oscillators, electric circuits, and other applications. (Course Goals 1,4,8,10)

VI. Systems of Linear Differential Equations (3 weeks)

At the end of Unit VI, the student will be able to:
• construct the matrix form of a corresponding system of differential equations. (Course Goals 1,4)
• calculate solutions to systems of differential equations by the differential operator and Laplace transform methods. (Course Goals 1,7)
• calculate eigenvalues and eigenvectors of a matrix. (Course Goals 1,7,10)
• solve systems of differential equations using eigenvalues and eigenvectors and the method of variations of parameters. (Course Goals 1,7,10)
• describe the matrix exponential. (Course Goals 1,7)
**Evaluation of student learning:**

Students will receive regular feedback on their work through graded assignments, examinations, and projects. The syllabus for this course should describe the schedule for these assessment tools and how they will be used to calculate grades. Learning activities will consist of a combination of lectures, graded assignments, demonstrations and examinations. The specific choices for assessment will rest with the instructor. Outside of class, students are expected to do a significant amount of work to achieve learning goals for this course. A typical grading scheme for this course follows:

Four Exams 60%
Graded Assignments, projects, quizzes 15%
Final Exam (Cumulative) 25%

**Academic Integrity Statement:**

Under no circumstance should students knowingly represent the work of another as one’s own. Students may not use any unauthorized assistance to complete assignments or exams, including but not limited to cheat-sheets, cell phones, text messaging and copying from another student. Violations should be reported to the Academic Integrity Committee and will be penalized. Please refer to the Student Handbook for more details.