

Calculus for the Social Sciences I

MATH 125-04, TuTh 8:00 - 9:15, Swords 328, Fall 2009

Dr. Gareth Roberts

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Office Hours: Mon. 2:00 - 3:00, Wed. 1:00 - 3:00, Tues. & Thurs. 11:00 - 12:00 or by appointment.

Required Text: *Single Variable Calculus, Concepts and Contexts*, Fourth ed., James Stewart.

Webpage: <http://mathcs.holycross.edu/~groberts/Courses/MA125/homepage.html>

Homework assignments, schedule changes, exam materials, useful links and other important information will be posted at this site. Please bookmark it!

Is this the right Calculus course for me? This course is primarily intended for Social Science majors, in particular Economics majors or minors and Economics/Accounting majors. Students intending to major in Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Mathematics or Physics should enroll in MATH 131 or MATH 136 instead. Economics majors who are interested in attending graduate school should also consider enrolling in MATH 131 or MATH 136. This course fulfills one credit of the Math/Science common area requirement although students enrolled solely to fulfill this requirement should consider taking a Topics in Mathematics (MATH 110) course instead. More information about the Math/CS Department's introductory course offerings is available at <http://math.holycross.edu/HpFYInfoMath.htm>

Note: The MATH 125–126 sequence is a terminal sequence. Students considering taking more mathematics courses beyond Calculus should enroll in MATH 131 or 133.

Course Objectives:

- Develop an understanding for the techniques and theory of one variable calculus.
- Become proficient at making clear and coherent mathematical arguments.
- Work and communicate with your peers.
- Have fun while learning calculus!

Syllabus: The main focus of the course is to study differentiation of real-valued functions of a single variable. Applications of the derivative, specifically geared towards economics, will also be featured. The subject will be approached from both a conceptual and a computational viewpoint. Rather than just learning a set of formulas, techniques and algorithms, the theory and applications of Calculus will be central to our study. The text has been chosen with this goal in mind. Many of the exercises require a solid understanding of concepts as opposed to a cursory “plug-and-chug” approach.

A tentative outline of the course is given below. We will cover most of the material in the textbook from Chapters 1 through 4.

- Essential Functions: linear, exponential, logarithmic, trigonometric (2 classes)
- New Functions from Old: shifting, stretching, composition, inverses (2 classes)

- Limits (2 classes)
- Exam 1
- The Derivative: limit definition, continuity, velocity, derivative as a function (5 classes)
- Differentiation Rules: product, quotient, exponential, trig (2 classes)
- Exam II
- Differentiation Rules: chain rule, implicit differentiation, inverse trig (3 classes)
- Applications of the Derivative: related rates, curve sketching, optimization problems (4 classes)
- Exam III
- Applications to Economics and Business (2 classes)
- Calculus Jeopardy (last class)
- Final Exam

Homework: There will be homework due roughly every Thursday at the START of class. Assignments will be posted on the course web page. Most of the problems are to be completed using the online homework system **WebAssign** while other problems are to be handed in separately on paper. **Late homework will not be accepted.** While you are allowed and encouraged to work on homework problems with your classmates, the solutions you present (or enter on the computer) should be your own. Plagiarism will not be tolerated.

In order to access WebAssign, you will need a **Class Key**. The Class Key for MATH 125-04 is [holycross 2513 5053](#) . Eventually, you will also need an access code to use the system. If you purchased your textbook at the bookstore, then it should have come with an envelope including your access code. However, you can use WebAssign for free for two weeks (starting on Sept. 3rd) so don't break the seal on the special envelope included with the text until you are sure you are enrolling in the course, otherwise you will not be able to get reimbursed.

It is HIGHLY recommended that you take advantage of the **Calculus Workshop**, a drop-in peer tutoring center, open Sunday through Thursday from 7:00 - 9:00 pm in Swords 328. This is an excellent place to receive help while you are working on homework problems or studying for exams.

Quizzes and Exams: There will be a weekly quiz given at the start of class EVERY TUESDAY, except for weeks in which a midterm exam is scheduled. These will be short, one or two problem quizzes designed to keep you abreast of the current course material. The lowest quiz grade of the semester will be dropped. In addition, there will be three in-class midterm exams. A comprehensive final will be given at the end of the semester.

The exam schedule is given below. Please mark these dates down and plan accordingly. Any conflicts must be legitimate and brought to my attention well before the exam is scheduled. If you have any specific learning disabilities or special needs and require accommodations, please let me know early in the semester so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. You will need to contact Dr. Neil Lipsitz in Disability Services (Hogan 209, x3693) to obtain documentation of your disability.

	Exam 1	Thurs., Oct. 1	In Class
Exam Schedule:	Exam 2	Thurs., Oct. 29	In Class
	Exam 3	Tue., Dec. 1	In Class
	Final	Thurs., Dec. 17	8:30 – 11:30 am

Academic Integrity: The Department of Mathematics and Computer Science has drafted a policy on academic integrity to precisely state our expectations of both students and faculty with regards to cheating, plagiarism, academic honesty, etc. You are required to read this policy and sign a pledge agreeing to uphold it. Anyone who violates the Departmental Policy on Academic Integrity will receive a 0 for that assignment or exam as well as possible further disciplinary action involving your Class Dean.

Grade: Your course grade will be based on the scores you receive for each of the following items:

- classroom participation/interest 5%
- homework 10%
- quizzes 15%
- midterm exams 40% (best two exams 15%, worst exam 10%)
- final exam 30%

How to do well in this course:

- ATTEND THE LECTURES, PARTICIPATE and ASK QUESTIONS

I take pride in my lectures and work hard to make complicated subject matter look easy. However, this will not be of much use to you if you don't attend class. Furthermore, several class periods will involve your participation in activities designed to get you to think. These days should be fun, with me lecturing little and you participating greatly. Do not take for granted the privilege you have of attending college. Value your time here and I will make it worth your while.

- DO YOUR HOMEWORK REGULARLY.

The best way to learn mathematics is to *do* mathematics. This means mastering the material to the point where you could explain it to your classmates, your friends or your mom. "You don't really learn the subject until you teach it," is a common adage amongst mathematicians. It is not enough to know how to mimic an algorithm. A strong should be able to follow and propose arguments as to why an algorithm is working or not working.

- WORK WITH YOUR CLASSMATES.

Some of the best assets available to you are the knowledge and abilities of your peers. Learn to explain mathematics to your classmates. Mathematics can be fun and rewarding when there are people around you who enjoy figuring out problems as much as you do. Take advantage of this opportunity and organize study groups.