



Course Syllabus: Differential Equations

McCoy College of Science, Mathematics, and Engineering
MATH 3433, Section 101, MWF 10-10:50 AM, Bolin Hall 143
Fall 2026, August 24 – December 9

Contact Information

Instructor: Jeff Hood
Office: 122N
Office hours: MWF 8-9AM, TR 9:30-11AM
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Course Description

This course will cover an introduction to the theory and applications of ordinary differential equations, solution techniques for linear and separable equations, systems of differential equations, and an introduction to phase-plane analysis and non-linear problems.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Text: *A First Course in Differential Equations, 12th Edition*, by Zill; ISBN 9780357760192

Study Hours and Tutoring Assistance

TASP office is located in the MSU Library

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct. Cheating will not be tolerated in any form. Any evidence of possible cheating may result in a 0 on the assignment/exam or an 'F' in the course. This includes the use of any Artificial Intelligence Devices or Programs.

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Moffett Library

Moffett Library provides resources and services to support student's studies and assignments, including books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, and multimedia materials accessible both on campus and remotely. The library offers media equipment checkout, reservable study rooms, and research assistance from librarians to help students effectively find, evaluate, and use information. Get started on this [Moffett Library webpage](#) to explore these resources and learn how to best utilize the library.

Grading

Course Grade – Your current course average is available at any time from the instructor's office; only in person.

Scale: 90-100% A, 80-89% B, 70-79% C, 60-69% D, 0-59% F

Percentage of Final Grade by Grade Type

Quizzes:	35%
Exams:	40%
Final Exam:	25%

Homework

Homework will be assigned almost every day, but usually not taken up. These assignments will be for the students to practice the concepts learned in class. It is up to the student to complete these assignments before the next class meeting. If the instructor deems that it would benefit the class to grade the homework, he may choose to do so, without prior notice.

Quizzes

A quiz over the previous homework will be given during the first 5 minutes of class, every day.

Quizzes 35% of Final Grade

Exams

There will be 3 regular, one-hour exams. Dates of these exams will be announced in class as soon as possible. The exams will be given after covering approximately every seven sections of material.

Exams 40% of Final Grade

Special Rules Apply; these will be announced in class. There will be no exceptions to the rules.

Final Exam

Comprehensive Final, Wednesday, December 9th, 10:30AM-12:30PM.

The room for the final exam will be the same as the regular classroom, unless otherwise announced.

Final Exam 25% of Final Grade

Special Rules Apply; these will be announced in class. There will be no exceptions to the rules.

Late Work

No work will be accepted after it is due, for any reason.

Make Up Work/Tests

No make-ups will be allowed for homework, quizzes, tests, or finals, for any reason. If an exam is missed, you will have the opportunity to replace it with the Final Exam – however, you may only have one grade replacement. If you miss more than one exam, it is likely you have had to miss too much of the material, and should consider dropping the course and retaking at a later date. If you are unable to avoid missing the Final, the instructor reserves the right to maintain complete discretion to decide how this will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Important Dates

- Labor Day Holiday: September 1
- Thanksgiving Break: November 26-30
- For other important dates, check [Academic Calendar](#).
- Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" November 24. Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

This course will not use D2L.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all meetings of the classes in which they are enrolled. Although in general students are graded on intellectual effort and performance rather than attendance, absences may lower the student's grade where class attendance and class participation are deemed essential by the faculty member. Documentation from your physician should be electronically submitted to your instructor as soon as possible and communication via email should be maintained to receive instructions on how to receive the information for the material you have missed so you can get caught up on your own. The two lowest quizzes will be dropped, and any quizzes missed for an excused absence will not count against you, however you are still responsible for learning the material you missed. Acceptance of absence excuse is at the discretion of the instructor. If one exam is missed, you will be given the opportunity to make it up with your final exam. **If you arrive after the quiz is given, are not excused for an absence or if you leave early without a valid excuse, your quiz grade for that day will be forfeit.**

Recording Classes

****Recording classes is generally prohibited without the professor's explicit permission.*** Such recordings, when permitted, are for personal use only and may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published without the professor's prior consent. Some faculty may not permit recordings of their classes. When it is feasible and appropriate, students may record classes to accommodate disabilities under the Americans With Disabilities Act, with prior approval of Disability Support Services. Such recordings may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published.

Instructor Class Policies

Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment, which is conducive to learning. This means that the presence of electronic devices other than your calculator are not to be seen, heard, or implied, ever. It also means that while questions are encouraged and discussion is acceptable provided it is pertinent, excessive private discussions distract from the lesson and are frowned upon.

Cheating will not be tolerated in any form. Any evidence of possible cheating may result in a 0 on the assignment/exam or an 'F' in the course. This includes the use of any Artificial Intelligence Devices or Programs.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exist in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Student Wellness Center, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide

appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

Emergency Aid Resources for Basic Needs

Unexpected life circumstances can affect anyone. If you are experiencing challenges meeting basic needs—such as housing, utilities, food, transportation, healthcare, technology, textbooks or other life necessities, resources may be available to help. Visit the [Student Emergency Support and Resources webpage](#) to learn more, and explore emergency support opportunities through MSU and how to access them. For additional information, please contact the Office of Student Affairs: Clark Student Center #108, (940) 397-7500, student.affairs@mstuexas.edu.

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

Midwestern State University seeks to provide a safe, healthy, pleasant environment for its faculty, staff, and students. To this end, the use of tobacco products, including smoke and smokeless tobacco, and the advertising, sale, free distribution, and discarding of tobacco products shall be prohibited in all indoor and outdoor facilities and in all university vehicles. The policy extends to faculty, staff, students, vendors, guests, and visitors.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the

information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “*Run. Hide. Fight.*” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: [“Run. Hide. Fight.”](#)

Grade Appeal Process

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

***Notice:** Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Schedule:

We will cover the following sections of the, listed in the order they will be taught, with possible, rare exceptions: 1.1-1.3, 2.1-2.5, 3.1, 3.2, 4.1-4.4, 4.6, 4.7, 5.1, 5.2, 3.3, & 4.9. For our course, we will attempt to average about 2 sections every week, although based on how the class is doing at any given time, we may take more or less time per section.