

Math 231: Calculus I, Spring 2024

Lectures: MW 2:30–4:10pm in 1S-218.

Professor: Tobias Johnson (tobias.johnson@csi.cuny.edu)

Office: 1S-225

Text: *Calculus: Early Transcendentals* by Rogawski. It is supposed to be the 4th edition but it doesn't really matter. It's just a good book for you as a reference. A used book or electronic version or whatever is as good as a new one.

Course Website: <http://www.math.csi.cuny.edu/~tobiasljohnson/232/>

This website will contain all of my announcements. It also has a calendar for the class, which I update as the class goes.

Class overview: The goal for the class is for you to understand the concepts of differential calculus and be able to solve problems that require it. The main reason to learn this material is that it is important to the further study of mathematics, and it is also used throughout the social and physical sciences and in statistics. Another benefit is that you'll hone your critical thinking.

Office Hours: Monday 10:30am-12:30pm; Wednesday 1pm-2pm in room 1S-225. Office hours are a time when you can come to my office to get help on the homework, ask general questions, or discuss anything you'd like with me. You don't need to get permission to come or warn me in advance—just stop by.

Grading: Here is how I will weight each graded component of the class. See the calendar for dates of quizzes and midterms (though quiz dates might change).

Category	Percentage
Homework	10%
Quizzes	15%
Midterm 1	15%
Midterm 2	20%
Final	40%

More information on each of these categories is below. For the midterms, I'll give a approximate grade scale to tell you which score ranges on the test correspond to which letter grades.

A warning: **there will not be any opportunities for make-up work after the fact or for extra credit.** This isn't meant to teach you a lesson or punish you or anything like that. Rather, it's that in my experience, if you lose the thread of the class, it's almost impossible to regain it.

I do understand that sometimes it can take a while before the course material starts falling together. This is why I've made the final worth so much of the grade (40%). Another policy that I have is

that if you show strong improvement from the beginning to the end of the class, at my discretion I'll raise your grade by one step (e.g., from B+ to A-). I should note that this is only for students who show an extreme improvement, and that I've only done it for a small handful of students in all the time I've been teaching.

Homework: The homework for this class is done using the online system WebWork. It will be due once a week, usually on Thursday nights. I will generally not accept late homework. However, I understand that events may force you to miss an assignment. To deal with this, I will assign grades so that you can still get the highest homework grade even if you've completely missed two assignments.

Quizzes: There will be six quizzes. These will be short tests modelled on recent homework problems.

Exams: You will have two midterms plus a final. I'll give out old exams from the last time I taught this class to help you study. Exams will be closed notes. ~~You may use a basic scientific calculator, but you can't use a calculator that can make graphs or perform integration or differentiation. If you only bring a graphing calculator to the exam, I won't let you use it (though the exams won't require a calculator to solve any of the problems).~~ You can use any scientific or graphing calculator on the exams. I'll post solutions immediately after the exam. Consequently, I can't let you take an exam late.

Policy on illnesses and other excused absences: If you are forced to miss a quiz or exam due to illness or some other unavoidable circumstance, please contact me immediately and we will discuss the situation. The most likely solution is that your remaining exams will be weighted more heavily to make up for it. I do not give make-up exams: this policy allows me to return everyone's exams and post solutions as quickly as possible. Here are some other valid reasons to miss a test besides illness: observance of religious holidays, participation in certain university sponsored activities, and family emergencies. Please try to make arrangements at least a week in advance, if possible. Of course, if you have an emergency, just write to me as soon as you can.

Disabilities: If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, contact me as soon as possible.

The Unexpected: Unexpected things happen to everyone, and the policies in this syllabus might not treat your particular circumstances fairly. If that's the case, please don't be afraid to bring it up with me, and I'll do my best to accommodate them.