

Math 1142 Fall 2006

Short Calculus crams 2-3 semesters worth of calculus into 1 semester, so this is a very fast-paced class. The common final exam for Math 1142 will cover Chapters 1-6 and Sections 7.1-7.3. (Note that Sections 2.5, 3.3, 5.5, and 5.6 will be omitted.) If we don't get through all of this material, you won't be in a good position to do well on the final. I know that the pace of the class may feel a little overwhelming, so I've included some suggestions below to help you stay on track and be successful in this course. If you are following all of these suggestions and still not performing as well as you would like, please talk to me. I might be able to suggest other things that could help.

Keep up with the reading. It's very important to keep up with the reading for this course. In particular, you may find that some of the examples in the book are similar to some of your homework problems. You may also find that it's useful to skim the material and become familiar with some of the terms and main ideas in a section before coming to lecture.

Start the homework early. If you start the assignments early, you'll have more time to get help with any problems you find difficult.

Ask questions. If you have any questions about the material from class or in the textbook, or if you need some help with the homework, please don't hesitate to ask either me or your TA. We're happy to help with anything we can!

In particular, this class may have more technical definitions and results and may use more math notation than you're used to. If you ever have any questions about these, please get in touch with me or your TA.

There are also free tutoring services available on campus. One-to-one tutoring is available in 150 Lind Hall on a walk-in basis. This service is available Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. If you'd like a longer tutoring session, you can schedule a 25-minute appointment with a tutor in 128 Lind Hall. The hours for this service are also Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The phone number for scheduling appointments is 612-624-2890.

Form a study group. Discussing the course material and homework problems with other students can be a great way to further your understanding of this subject. (Please just make sure that you write up your homework solutions in your own words.)

Attend class regularly. I've generally found that students who attend class regularly do much better on the tests, quizzes, and homework assignments than those who don't. Most of the material builds upon previous material, so missing a day can make the difference in understanding several classes down the line. If you miss class, please make sure you get a copy of the notes from another student.

Do extra problems. Working extra problems can help you gain insight into the course material and can give you extra practice using the techniques discussed during class. As you do more problems, you'll probably find that the concepts and techniques will start to seem more second nature.

Schedule time to work on this course. The University Senate policies define one credit as equivalent to an average of three hours of learning effort per week (over a full semester) necessary for a student to achieve an average grade in an undergraduate course. Since this is a 4-credit class, you should expect to spend 12 hours per week on this course. The time outside of class should be spent working on homework and other problems, studying the textbook, and reviewing your class notes. You may find it helpful to set aside a specific time each day to work on this course.