

## Math 232 Policy Information

Spring 2012

---

<i>Instructor:</i> Dr. Laura Taalman	<i>Office:</i> Roop 123, 568-3355	<i>Text:</i> 540-246-3185
<i>E-mail:</i> taal@math.jmu.edu	<i>Web:</i> www.math.jmu.edu/~taal	<i>IM:</i> AskLauraMath

---

### Class Times

MWF 12:20-1:10 and Thursdays 12:30-1:45 in Roop 213

### Office Hours

MWF 1:15–3:00 in Roop 123 or by appointment, IM, text, email, or whenever you can catch me. It is best to call or email me before you travel to my office or to set up an appointment in advance.

### Textbook

Softcover custom book *Calculus with Integrated Precalculus II*, by Taalman, published by Freeman and available at the JMU bookstore. Please note that this is essentially the same version of the text as was used in Fall 2011, but a substantially different version than was used previous to that.

### Structure of Class

You are expected to carefully read and think about each section of the textbook *before* the class period in which it is covered, as listed on the Syllabus. Each Monday and Wednesday will begin with a reading quiz to test your understanding of the section for that day. Each Thursday class will begin with a reading quiz drawing further on the material from Monday and Wednesday. The remainder of each class hour will be a discussion with breaks for you to work in groups on various questions and examples. There will be very little lecturing.

On Fridays, class will begin with a short quiz that on some weeks you will take individually and on some weeks you will take with a group. I will ask more challenging questions and expect very good work on group quizzes. The remainder of the Friday class will be a problems day, sometimes with me doing problems at the board for the entire class, and sometimes with groups working on problems around the room at various blackboards.

### Homework

You must do as much homework as needed to understand the material. I will not collect or grade homework, but the quantity and quality of the homework that you complete will likely be the single most important factor in the level of performance you will be able to show on quizzes and tests. Please see the *Notebook Guidelines* for more information.

### Facebook

There is a Facebook group for this course called *I want to rock Math 232*. Membership in this group is optional and it is not required to be "Facebook friends" with me or anyone in the course in order to be part of this group. The purpose of this group is to provide a forum where you can set up study groups with other students, even those you do not currently know (examples: "I'll be at the library at 9pm studying trig if anyone wants to join me" or "help! trig is killing me! anyone else in the same boat want to meet at the Learning Center this afternoon?"). We will also use the Facebook group to post pictures of blackboard work from class, and I will post comments and answer questions about that work periodically.

### Grades

There will be numerous daily quizzes worth 2 points each, eight to ten quizzes worth 20 points

each, three in-class tests worth 100 points each, and one cumulative final exam worth 200 points. Homework will not be collected except as part of your class Notebook; see the Notebook Guidelines for more information.

At the end of the course you will get the grade that you earn based on your level of performance and understanding. I do not use a predetermined scale. Your grades will not be on Blackboard and it will not be possible for you to approximate your grade numerically throughout the semester. I am happy to discuss your performance in the class with you at any time. Your final course grade will be determined from your performance levels, statistical methods, the class average, and historical class averages. I reserve the right to decide borderline grades based on factors such as participation, effort, and improvement.

### **Absences**

You do not need to notify me about missing MWTh class days. If you miss class it is your responsibility to get notes and announcements from your partner or another classmate. Daily quizzes cannot be made up, but missing one or two will not hurt your grade. If you will be absent for a prolonged period of time then you should let me know, and provide documentation.

You must be in class each Friday, since every Friday there is either a quiz or a test, beginning at the start of the class period. **I do not give make-up quizzes or tests but in some circumstances I may be able to “excuse” you from a quiz or a test.** If you have a problem with attending on a quiz or test day you must notify me in advance and request accommodation. If an emergency causes you to miss a quiz or an test, you should contact me and explain your situation. My sympathy with your plight will be partially determined by how much effort you put into quickly contacting me.

### **Sample Work Schedule**

Every Monday and Wednesday we will discuss a new section of material, every Thursday we will further discuss and practice the material from earlier in the week, and every Friday will be a quiz or a test. Suppose that in a particular week we are to cover Section *A* on Monday and Section *B* on Wednesday. To stay on top of the material I suggest following a work schedule like this:

**Saturday/Sunday at home:** read/summarize Section *A*

**Monday in class:** discuss Section *A*

**Monday at home:** do homework for Section *A*

**Tuesday at home:** finish homework for Section *A*, read/summarize Section *B*

**Wednesday in class:** discuss Section *B*

**Wednesday at home:** do homework for Section *B*

**Thursday in class:** discuss more of Sections *A* and *B*

**Thursday at home:** finish *A* and *B* homework to study for quiz

**Friday in class:** take quiz or test

**Saturday/Sunday at home:** review Sections *A* and *B* and fill in any gaps

If you follow such a schedule, then you will likely succeed in this course. If you do not, then you will likely fall behind and do poorly. I prefer that you do the former.

### **Technology**

Calculators will not be allowed on any quizzes or exams. For work done outside of class I suggest that you check your answers with a graphing calculator or computer program. Any Texas Instruments graphing calculator is probably fine, as are many others. A better (and free!) alternative is the website [www.wolframalpha.com](http://www.wolframalpha.com), which is an online tool that can do much more than a standard graphing calculator, including symbolic differentiation and integration, with steps explained. Cell

phones may not be used as calculators or clocks or in any capacity during tests or class.

### **Honor Code**

I completely support and encourage working together in groups on homework assignments outside of class. Having said that, I take the Honor Code very seriously, so you should know the difference between collaboration and academic dishonesty. This is sometimes a subtle distinction and it can vary from classroom to classroom. For example, in my class it is *not* cheating to work together and each write up your own answers in your Notebooks. On the other hand, it *would* be considered cheating for you to copy problems into your Notebook from a friend the night before an exam, or to hide old exams or printouts in your Notebook without writing them in your own hand. In my class it would *not* be considered cheating to consult [www.wolframalpha.com](http://www.wolframalpha.com) to help figure out how to solve a problem and to put that in your Notebook, because in my class homework is just a learning tool and is not collected for a grade. Of course, it *would* be considered cheating for one group to help or eavesdrop on another group during a quiz, or for a student to look at another student's test paper, or for a student to gain information about exam problems in advance, or for a student to use a calculator, computer, phone, or other disallowed materials on a quiz or exam. Any instances of suspected cheating or academic dishonesty will be referred to the JMU Honor Board for investigation.

### **Getting Help**

The Science/Math Learning Center in Roop 200 is open most weeks 10–8 MTuWTh, 10–2 F, and 5–8 pm Sunday. There is also a satellite office of the SMLC in rooms 3311 and 3313 of the East Campus Library that is open 5–8pm Sunday and 5–8pm MWTh. The SMLC should be your first line of defense when working out homework problems. Many students just choose to do their homework in the SMLC all the time, so that help is always available when they need it.

I also recommend working as much as possible with other people when doing homework. Students who attend regular study/homework groups tend to do better on quizzes and tests, and thus in the course as a whole. You will be independently deciding how much homework to put into your Notebooks, and a group atmosphere can motivate you to do more work than you might do if you attempted it stuck in your room by yourself. There is blackboard space in Roop 119 and Roop 103 and in many other places on campus, including study and group working spaces in the libraries. Discussing mathematics out loud will significantly increase your understanding.

I also encourage you to ask me questions by instant message or email at any time, and to visit me during my office hours or by appointment. I can usually respond quickly to IM and email. Texting is a good way to reach me in emergencies. I almost never check my office phone voicemail, but that phone number is a good tool to check if I am in my office if you are thinking of stopping by outside of my office hours.

### **JMU policies**

For information on official JMU policies for Inclement Weather Policy, Academic Honesty/Honor Council, Adding/Dropping Courses, Disability Accommodations, and Religious Observance Accommodations, see [www.jmu.edu/syllabus](http://www.jmu.edu/syllabus).