# Math 1B        Course Policy        Fall 2017

Lecture 2 – Class # 17107        <u>Instructor</u>: Emiliano Gómez

## Text

Calculus, Early Transcendentals        8th Edition        by James Stewart

We will follow the textbook rather closely, and all the homework exercises will come from it. It may be okay to use a previous edition <u>except</u> for the homework problems. If you do use an older edition, make sure to get the *correct* homework exercises from someone who has the 8th edition.

## Homework

There will be 13 homework assignments. Their due dates are indicated in the "Time Table" document (note that they are mostly due on Fridays, but HW 11 and HW 12 are due on Mondays). Homework is due at the beginning of your discussion session. The two lowest scores will be dropped. Late homework will not be accepted except under exceptional circumstances.

Homework grades will be based on completeness and correctness (there will be spot checks for correctness and for honest attempts to solve the problems). You are welcome to check your answers to odd-numbered problems at the end of the textbook, but you must turn in solutions, not just answers. You may discuss the homework with your classmates, but you must write your own solutions. This is crucial in order to learn the material properly and to be well prepared for quizzes and exams. You are always welcome to ask me and your GSI if you have questions about the homework.

Although it is quite easy to find solutions manuals on the internet, copying solutions is illegal and will result in a negative homework grade as well as in more serious consequences. More importantly, you cannot master the material unless you put in the effort to do your own homework.

## Quizzes

As you can see in the "Time Table" document, there will be 8 quizzes. This document also shows when the quizzes will take place and what will be covered in each quiz. The lowest two scores will be dropped, but there are no makeup quizzes. You will take the quizzes in your discussion session. They will be 20 minutes long.

**Exams**

There will be two <u>midterm exams</u>, at the same place and time as the lecture.

Midterm 1: Monday, September 25 – Chapters 7 and 8
Midterm 2: Wednesday, October 25 – Chapter 11

Please note that the first midterm will take place *after* the Sep. 22 deadline to drop a course. Also, *both* midterm exams will count toward the grade. You will *not* be able to drop one and replace it with the score of the final exam or the other midterm exam (except maybe in very special circumstances and presenting proper documentation). So make sure that you take both midterms very seriously.

The <u>final exam</u> is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 12 from 3pm to 6pm. The location will be announced once the final exam schedule is posted by the university.

It is not possible to give makeup exams, so please mark these three dates now and make sure that you have no conflicts in your schedule.

Notes and electronic devices are NOT allowed for the exams. To get full credit for a problem, you must have the correct answer, put a box around it, and provide a legible, clear, complete justification. Unexplained correct answers will be regarded suspiciously and receive little or no credit. To maximize credit, cross out incorrect work.
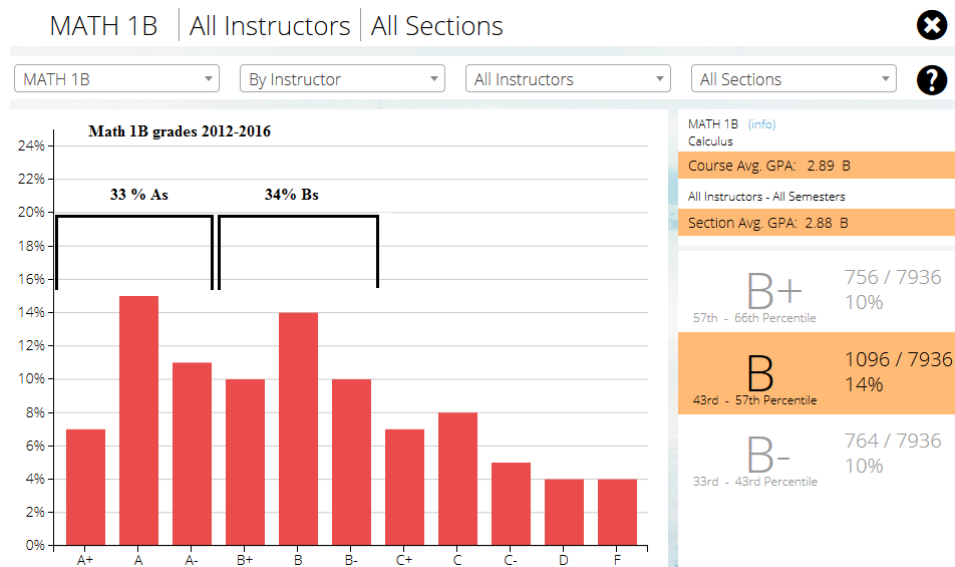
In general, exams cannot be regraded. The only exception is when there has been an obvious grading error such as adding the scores incorrectly or overlooking a solution. In such cases, you must inform your GSI *immediately* upon receiving your exam.


**Disabled Student Program**

If you have an accommodation letter from the DSP, you must inform me at the beginning of the semester so that I can figure out how to accommodate your needs. If you tell me just before the first midterm, I may not be able to do so. If you get a DSP letter during the semester, please let me know as soon as you get it. If you need special accommodations, I encourage you to contact the DSP office as early as possible.

**Grades**

Details of the grading scheme and the computation of your grade are given below for your information and for transparency. To be as fair as possible, the distribution of semester grades will resemble the following historical distribution from the last five years:



The grading scheme is as follows:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Homework | 10% | There will be 13 HW assignments |
| Quizzes | 10% | There will be 8 quizzes    in your discussion session |
| Midterm 1 | 25% | Monday, Sep. 25    in class |
| Midterm 2 | 25% | Wednesday, Oct. 25     in class |
| Final exam | 30% | Monday, Dec. 12    8am – 11am |

• The lowest two homework scores and the lowest two quiz scores will be dropped.
• Late homework will not be accepted. There are no makeup quizzes or exams.
• Both midterm exams will count. You *cannot* replace one of them with your score on the final
  exam, except in very special circumstances for which you will need to provide documentation.

The only grade that will be curved is a semester score out of 100. But I will provide statistics on each midterm exam so you can have an idea of what your grade would be, if based only on that exam score, according to the above historical distribution.
I will ask the GSIs to have a uniform quiz score average, but if there are differences between the distinct discussion sections, we will adjust the quiz score averages so that all sections are treated fairly.

Finally, please note that according to university policy, an <u>incomplete grade</u> (I) can be given only if unanticipated events beyond your control (e.g. a medical emergency) make it impossible for you to complete the course, and if you are otherwise passing (with a grade of C or above) up to those events.

**Cheating**

Your integrity is worth more than your grade in this course. In addition, cheating does not help you learn. Dealing with academic dishonesty is very painful for both students and instructors, and can have very serious consequences. I hope these will be my only words about this ugly topic for the entire semester.


**A Few Words of Advice**

• The best advice I can give you is that you should focus on mastering the ideas and applications of the course, rather than focusing on your performance and your grade. Research shows that students who prioritize learning over performance not only learn better, but also outperform students who focus on performance.

• Be organized and plan ahead, at least weekly. Do not leave homework or studying for the last night. Make sure to get a good night's sleep before the exams and to get up in time for a good breakfast…and to make it to the exams on time!

• Find a few classmates to form a study group. Help each other out, explain things to each other, question or give constructive criticism to each other's written solutions to practice or homework problems. Create an atmosphere of collaboration rather than competition among your peers.

• Get your questions answered. If you do not understand something, ask me. Ask your GSI. Ask your classmates. Come to your GSI's office hours. Come to my office hours. If you have any concerns about the course, feel free to discuss them with me.




Welcome to the class