University of California, Berkeley
Department of Mathematics

Fall 2018

Math 123: Ordinary Differential Equations

Section 1, Class No. 24090

Instructor: Slobodan Simić

Office: 1071 Evans Hall

Email: `simic@math.berkeley.edu` (second best way to contact me after `Piazza`)

Lectures: TuTh 2:00–3:29 in 3111 Etcheverry Hall

Office hours: Wed. 1:30–3:00, Thu. 11:00–12:30, and by appointment.
I will be available to answer questions on Piazza most days.

Textbook: Morris W. Hirsch, Stephen Smale, and Robert L. Devaney, *Differential Equations, Dynamical Systems, and an Introduction to Chaos*, Academic Press/Elsevier, third edition, 2013, Hardcover ISBN: 9780123820105, eBook ISBN: 9780123820112

Other good books: Steven H. Strogatz, *Nonlinear Dynamics and Chaos*, Westview, 1994
James D. Meiss, *Differential Dynamical Systems*, SIAM, 2007
Lawrence Perko, *Differential Equations and Dynamical Systems*, third edition, Springer Texts in Applied Mathematics 7, 2001

Course web page: `http://math.berkeley.edu/~simic/Fall18/Math123/123.html`

Prerequisites: Math 104 or equivalent.

Homework: Weekly, due on **Thursdays**, unless specified otherwise. Late homework will not be accepted. Three lowest homework scores will be dropped.

Exams: One midterm and a final. Please mark your calendars:
Midterm: Thursday, October 18
Final: Tuesday, December 11, 8–11 AM (exam group 5)

Missed exam policy: No makeup exams will be given. If you miss the midterm, your score on the final exam will count in its place. However, you cannot "miss" a midterm retroactively after turning in your exam.

Incomplete grades: The grade of Incomplete is rarely given, and only in cases of documented serious medical or family emergency. An Incomplete grade is to be completed by taking the final exam in Math 123 next semester. You can only receive an Incomplete grade if you have passing scores on the work not missed.

Special accommodations: Students requiring special accommodations for exams must provide documentation from the Disabled Students' Program (DSP) and contact me at least two weeks prior to the first exam, so that arrangements can be made.

Grading policy: Homework 30%, Midterm 30% each, Final 40%.

Each component will be curved into a number on a consistent scale. The three curved grades will be added up and converted into a final course grade.

Piazza: To handle questions outside of class, we will be using Piazza:

`https://piazza.com`,

a free platform for instructors and GSIs to efficiently manage out-of-class Q&A. On the class dashboard, students can post questions and collaborate Wikipedia-style to edit responses to these questions. Instructors can also answer questions, endorse student answers, and edit or delete any posted content. Instead of emailing me math questions, I encourage you to post them to Piazza. Each student will be invited to join Piazza by email. Please join it as soon as you can, as I plan to use Piazza extensively.

Instead of sending me email, please create a post on Piazza with your question or concern. Private or anonymous post are fine, though they should be used rarely.

Feedback: I appreciate constructive feedback which you can give me in person, by email, or via Piazza.

For all other information, please see the course web page and Piazza.