Calculus III - Merit Discussion (Math 241 AD2 / Math 199)
Tuesday/Thursday 9:00am-10:50am in Illini Hall 14

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Gradebook: learn.illinois.edu

The Merit Philosophy

You have chosen to be part of a unique learning experience. The Merit workshop is not a tutoring session or homework review. Rather it is a chance to work on complex ideas in a supportive environment. Class is not about simply finishing a worksheet, but rather understanding the concepts. By solving challenging problems in a group setting, you will obtain a deeper understanding of the course material. Working with your peers encourages you to reflect upon your own reasoning and improves the way you communicate mathematics to the world. Merit students support one another and ensure that each member of the group understands the material. I seek to create an environment in which you dare to be wrong and always keep trying. I will seldom answer questions directly, but I will help you to think through the problems with your group. While this course format may seem different, or even frustrating at times, by trusting the process we can all grow together in mathematical confidence.

Merit Discussion Session Grades

The grading scale for Math 241 has been determined by the large lecture professors. Your Math 199 grade will be earned from your active participation in Merit discussions on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Each student may earn up to 15 points for their performance per day. The points will be assigned on the basis of attendance, preparation, and participation. Grades will be posted regularly at learn.illinois.edu

Attendance (5 points)

Attendance is required. You must arrive to class on time and stay for the whole time. There will be a 5 - 10 minute break during each class. You must return from break on time as well as work until the end of class to earn all possible attendance points. Your attendance points will be assigned according to the following scale:

- You were in your seat before the bell rang: 5 points.
- You were 0 - 5 minutes late: 3 - 4 points.
- You were 5 - 15 minutes late: 1 - 2 points.
- You were more than 15 minutes late: 0 points AND maximum of 3 points for participation.
You were more than 30 minutes late: unexcused absence (0 points for day).

**Preparation (5 points)**

In order to get the most out of the Merit session, it is crucial that you arrive ready to discuss the material you have been learning in more depth. **Before** discussion you should

- complete all homework problems (written, electronic, and suggested practice); and
- review your lecture notes (and bring them with you).

Your preparation for each day will be assessed through: announced or unannounced preparation quizzes, small homework assignments, mini-presentations, or other activities as announced. Note that assignments given as part of your preparation grade are not designed to give you more work for the class. Rather, they are designed as activities to aid in your success in this course and will often be activities which most successful students do outside of class anyway.

**Participation (5 points)**

Active participation is key to a successful Merit session. The following are my expectations for your participation:

- actively work with your group on the day’s activity by enthusiastically contributing your thoughts, ideas, insights, and questions;
- ask questions from your group members any time you are unclear and answer questions asked by others;
- contribute positively to the class environment;
- work on the same problem as your group;
- be respectful, patient, and tolerant of others;
- use cell phones or other electronic devices only if approved by instructor for accessing course-related materials; and
- ask me questions when everyone in your group is stuck or has the same question, but be ready for me to ask you more questions to help guide you toward better understanding rather than simply answer your question.

Your participation points will be assigned according to the following scale:

- You met all of my expectations: 5 points.
• You failed to meet all of my expectations in a small way; I may have had to remind you of my expectations once: 3 - 4 points.

• You failed to meet multiple expectations; I may have had to remind you of my expectations more than once: 1 - 2 points.

• I had to repeatedly remind you of my expectations: 0 points.

Unexcused Absences

I understand that there may be times in which you are unable to attend class. In order to have an absence counted as excused, you must provide appropriate documentation and notify me by email before you miss the class. Furthermore, you must make up the Merit course material you have missed. Examples of such absences include:

• Illness with documentation (McKinley or other official note);

• Funeral/death in the family (see emergency dean); and

• Travel for sports teams or professional experiences (note from appropriate source).

Sleeping in, appointments, and vacations are not excused. If you are unsure if an absence will be excused or not, ask me! An unexcused absence will result in 0 points for the day and cannot be made up.

Letter Grades

Your letter grade for Math 199 will be assigned based upon the following scale. The final grade cutoffs will be no stricter than the following intervals.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93.34 - 100</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>90 - 93.33</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>86.67 - 90</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83.34 - 86.66</td>
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<td>B-</td>
<td>80 - 83.33</td>
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<td>C+</td>
<td>76.67 - 80</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>D+</td>
<td>66.67 - 70</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>63.34 - 66.66</td>
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<td>D-</td>
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Solutions Policy

It is the policy in Merit classrooms not to distribute solutions to Merit worksheets. If your group has arrived at an answer in class, I will confirm if it is accurate. If you do not know how to solve a problem in class, I will help your group by offering hints and asking questions. During office hours, I will discuss solutions directly and model the problem solving process for you.
Extra Credit

There will be opportunities for extra credit, which count towards your Math 199 grade. Extra credit can be applied toward days you attended Merit discussion but did not earn full credit. However, extra credit cannot be used to earn points for days where you received an unexcused absence. You may earn extra credit by:

- Meeting with a study group outside of class;
- Attending office hours (either mine, another Merit TA’s, or an instructor’s);
- Asking thoughtful questions or providing thoughtful answers on the Math 241 Pizza; and
- Going to the Math 241 tutoring room.

You may earn one point of extra credit for each time you do one of the above activities. To earn credit, you must email me with appropriate evidence of having completed the activity within 1 week of the activity. Examples of appropriate evidence include: sending me a selfie from your study group or from the tutoring room; having a TA from the tutoring room sign a statement saying when you were there; and sending me a list of questions/topics you discussed during office hours. Other opportunities for extra credit may be announced throughout the semester and will be posted to our course webpage.

I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus as needed. Any changes will be discussed in class and added to our course webpage.

I look forward to sharing this discussion with you! If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me. Have a great semester!