



## COURSE SYLLABUS

Course: Differential Equations  
Number: Math 317  
Credit-Hours: 3 credits [semester credit hours]

Course Description: Studies methods of solution of ordinary differential equations with applications in science and engineering. Extensive use is made of the method of Laplace transforms.

Prerequisites: Successful completion (C- or higher) of MATH 214 (Calculus II) or equivalent.

Course Workload: 3 semester credit hours • 3 student work hours per credit hour • 14 week Carnegie semester = 126 hours student course workload average

Examination Requirements: Proctored written final examination must be passed at 60% or higher to earn passing grade in course. "B" and "A" grade paths have additional examinations. See <http://www.distancecalculus.com/grades/> for more information.

Course Professor: Robert R. Curtis, Ph.D. <[robert@distancecalculus.com](mailto:robert@distancecalculus.com)>

University Information: Roger Williams University, University College, 1 Empire Plaza, Providence, RI, USA 02903. Accredited by New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE). See <https://www.rwu.edu/academics/accreditations> for more information.

E-Textbook: "Differential Equations & Mathematica" by Davis/Porta/Uhl et al  
Mathematics Software: Mathematica™ Computer Algebra & Graphing System

Detailed Syllabus

1. Getting Started
  - 1.1. Email and Chat
  - 1.2. Learning About the Course
  - 1.3. Required Hardware
  - 1.4. Software Fundamentals
  
2. Exponential Differential Equations
  - 2.1. Unforced
  - 2.2. Forced
  - 2.3. Steady State
  - 2.4. Personal Finance
  - 2.5. Step Function and Dirac Delta Function
  - 2.6. Tangent Vectors
  - 2.7. Initial Conditions
  - 2.8. Integration Factors
  
3. Second-Order Differential Equations
  - 3.1. Overdamped and Underdamped Oscillators
  - 3.2. Linear Forced and Unforced Oscillators
  - 3.3. Homogeneous Equations
  - 3.4. Inhomogeneous Equations
  - 3.5. Characteristic Equations
  - 3.6. Euler's Formula
  - 3.7. Impulse Forcing
  - 3.8. Dirac Delta Convolutions
  - 3.9. Springs and Electrical Charges
  - 3.10. Higher Order Equations
  
4. Laplace Transforms
  - 4.1. Laplace Transforms of First and Second Order Equations
  - 4.2. Fourier Analysis and Fits
  
5. Graphical Analysis of Differential Equations
  - 5.1. Euler's Method
  - 5.2. Flow Plots and Trajectories
  - 5.3. Predator-Prey Model
  - 5.4. Logistic Harvesting

6. First-Order Differential Equations
  - 6.1. Autonomous Equations
  - 6.2. Non-Autonomous Equations
  - 6.3. Separation of Variables Solving Method
  
7. Systems of Differential Equations
  - 7.1. Flows and Trajectories
  - 7.2. Conversion Between Higher Order ODEs and Systems
  
8. Power Series Solutions of Differential Equations
  - 8.1. Recursion Relations
  - 8.2. Comparing Series Solution to Numerical Solution
  - 8.3. Barriers