

**Mathematical Modeling**  
**Dr. Jeff Mortensen**

**Math 420/620**  
**Spring 2005**

**Class Information** This class meets from 1-1:50 pm Monday, Wednesday and Friday in WRB 4050. The textbook is *Mathematical Modeling*, second edition, by Mark Meerschaert, available in the bookstore.

**Contact Information** You may reach me by phone at 784-4433, by e-mail at [jm@unr.edu](mailto:jm@unr.edu), or in person either before or after class. You may also come by my office (639 AB) during my office hours, which I will announce during the second week of classes. If you are unable to make my office hours but wish to meet with me, please contact me to make an appointment.

**Homework** Homework will be assigned each week. *Late homework will not be accepted.* Students may work in groups of two or three on all homework assignments. Each group will submit one paper with the names of all group members. Different groups may not collaborate. Other than discussions and joint work within these groups, no outside help may be given or received on any homework assignments.

Tentative Lecture Topics

Monday		Wednesday		Friday	
1/17	Holiday	1/19	§1.1	1/21	§1.2, 1.3
1/24	§2.1	1/26	§2.2	1/28	§2.3
1/31	§3.1	2/2	§3.2	2/4	§3.2
2/7	§3.3	2/9	§3.3	2/11	§3.3
2/14	§4.1	2/16	§4.2	2/18	§4.3
2/21	Holiday	2/23	§5.1	2/25	§5.1
2/28	§5.2	3/2	§5.2	3/4	§5.3
3/7	§5.3	3/9	§5.3	3/11	5.3
3/14	§6.1	3/16	§6.1	3/18	§6.2
3/21	§6.2	3/23	§6.3	3/25	§6.3
3/28	Spring Break				
4/4	§6.4	4/6	§6.4	4/8	§6.4
4/11	§7.1	4/13	§7.2	4/15	§7.3
4/18	§8.1	4/20	§8.2	4/22	§8.2
4/25	§8.2	4/27	§8.3	4/29	§8.3
5/2	Epilogue	5/4	Prep Day		

**Grading policy**

There will be no tests or quizzes. Grades will be based solely on homework scores, according to the following scale.

A	90%
A-	85%
B+	80%
B	75%
B-	70%
C+	67%
C	63%
C-	60%
D+	57%
D	53%
D-	50%

**Homework Guidelines**

Here are a few comments concerning my grading policies on the homework.

- You are responsible for editing and proof-reading your homework solutions. Answers that don't make sense (whether due to serious conceptual problems or sloppy writing) may receive no credit.
- Your solutions must include answers, in clear English, to the questions asked in the assigned problems. If some mathematical computation is necessary to determine the answer, then evidence that you did the computation should be included. BUT the computation is not worth anything without a clear (and correct) explanation of the conclusion you draw from your calculation.
- If a problem involves numerous repetitive calculations (say, with slightly modified parameters), then you should provide sample calculations or data, as well as explanations or summaries of what variations were made and how the conclusions varied. When the amount of data exceeds that which can be explained clearly in English, a table or graph may be the best way to present the data. If I am unable to find your conclusions without wading through many pages of repetitive Maple code and/or graphics, you may not receive credit for the conclusions you have reached, even if they are correct.

**Support**

If you are having any difficulties that are interfering with your work in this class, please see me to discuss them. Also, tutoring, academic and personal counseling, and disability resources are available through the Student Support Services Project (784-6044).

The Mathematics Department is committed to equal opportunity in education for all students, including those with documented physical disabilities or documented learning disabilities. University policy states that it is the responsibility of students with documented disabilities to contact instructors during the first week of each semester to discuss appropriate accommodations to ensure equity in grading, classroom experiences and outside assignments.