

# Math 181, Spring 2009 - Ed Keppelmann

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|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Instructor:</b>    | Ed Keppelmann          | <b>Office:</b>       | AB616                      |
| <b>Cell:</b>          | 775-722-0658           | <b>Textbook:</b>     | Concepts & Contexts 3E     |
| <b>Author:</b>        | James Stewart          | <b>Publisher:</b>    | Thompson-Brooks-Cole       |
| <b>ALSO REQUIRED:</b> | Web-Assign Web Account | <b>CLICKER!</b>      | STARTING JAN 26th!         |
| <b>Email:</b>         | keppelma@unr.edu       | <b>Office Hours:</b> | POSTED WEEKLY <sup>1</sup> |

Greetings Students! I am delighted to be able to work with you this semester to learn Calculus. I hope you will learn a lot this semester. I am ready to help you whenever concerns arise. While I will really try to keep up with all my email, when you don't get a response just call me day or night, weekdays, holidays or weekends at 775-722-0658. In addition to being a faculty member in the math department, I am also the K-12 outreach coordinator to Nevada for the college of science. This means that I spend time working with many teachers in the state and so I often must adjust my office hours. Every Sunday, I will post my hours for the next week at the indicated site. In the categories below I will explain each factor in the course grading scheme.

- **4 EXAMS WITH PARTIAL RETAKES - 15% each** These will occur on the following dates during the 12-1250 big lecture sessions with the retakes during the recitations.
  - Exam 1 Chapter 2-Feb 13th (with re-take Feb 24th)
  - Exam 2 Chapter 3-March 11th (with re-take March 31st)
  - Exam 3 Chapter 4-April 10th (with re-take April 23rd)
  - Exam 4 Chapter 5 + testing again 4.1,4.6,2.9 - April 27 (with re-take May 5)

Approximately one-week before each exam an outline will be available that will describe the format for the exam. The exam will be broken into categories with each category ranging in value from 5% to 20% of the exam. These categories will be explained in the outline along with some tips for preparing for them. About a week after the exam the graded tests will be returned to you. You will then be given an opportunity to sign up for one exam question that you would like to re-take. During recitation on the day of the re-take you will then be given a similar (but definitely different) question in the same category which you signed up for. You will then be awarded (for that question only), the larger of your original score or what you achieved on the re-take. For example, if on the actual test, you scored a 4 and then when re-taking this question you scored a 14, then your original exam would increase by  $14 - 4 = 10$  points. Therefore, when you choose a re-take category it must be a question for which you did relatively poorly but one where you can become totally proficient. **retakes are OPTIONAL and they can never hurt your grade.** You will notice from the exam coverage and schedule that there are 3 sections that will be tested twice - 4.1 and 4.6 are two word problem sections which are the most powerful and complex parts of calculus I and 2.9 involves a graphing issue which is reversed in 5.4 so they are put together on one exam to see if you can keep the two concepts correct together.

- **Homework - drop lowest 4 - 10%** This is online homework and generally involves approximately 3 problems from each section we cover. **Note that this is only a portion of the assigned problems!** At 1PM on the day we discuss a section for the first time the problems will become available from the web-assign web-site. The homework for that section is then due by midnight 3 to 5 days later. Each of the three questions are submitted separately and you have up to three tries with your last submission counting for the grade. Therefore, if you have questions there will be plenty of opportunity to ask about these problems during lecture or recitation.
- **Clickers - drop lowest 4 - 5%** Starting Monday January 26th we will be using clickers during each of the Monday/Wednesday/Friday lectures. These devices, which must be purchased at the bookstore (so you get the correct system), will allow you to answer questions in class - multiple choice, TRUE/FALSE, number answers or even short answer phrases (10 characters). In some cases

I may give you homework to prepare which can be done ahead of time and loaded onto the clicker. **Please note that coming to class without proper batteries in or without your clicker means you can not get credit for the day's activity - there are no exceptions!** Preparing for clicker work involves doing the practice problems assigned on the schedule that involve the material formally presented in the previous lecture. In addition to the tested material we may also have bonus questions on the material we are doing that day. This material can take the form of polling the class to see what your preferences are for various issues such as exam review or asking questions on the material we are introducing that day to check your background and level of understanding. In the case of bonus questions you will either be given credit for any response or extra credit for a correct answer but no penalty or credit for a wrong answer. **Each clicker day is worth 10 points with extra credit added to your daily total for a maximum allowed of 100%.**

- **Practicum Quizzes - drop lowest 4 - 5%** These quizzes will occur during recitation sections as indicated on the schedule. **Notice that during some recitations there will be two such quizzes thus counting for twice the usual credit. The first such quiz will occur on the third day of class Thursday January 22. As with the clickers, preparation for practicum quizzes involves doing the practice homework.** These are called practicum, or practice quizzes because they involve the following format. The TA will work out a particular homework problem on the board for you. He will then leave this work on the board and give you a similar problem to complete for credit. While the similar problem may not be exactly the same, the provided solution should help you significantly.
- **Final Exam - 20% on Friday May 8 from 12-2PM** This exam will be comprehensive covering the entire course with some emphasis on topics that have been weak for the class during the previous exams. The exact coverage will be explained in the same manner as for the hour exams as explained above. **Although there will be no-retakes for the final you will be allowed to replace your lowest score on an hour exam by your score on the final if the score on your final is higher. This means the final will count in at least 20% of your grade and possibly as much as 35% of your grade.** Because of this comprehensive nature it is important to keep all your exams and study their solutions carefully and re-learn any material you do not understand. There may also be some material on the final that was not specifically tested during the one-hour exams but would have been part of the online or practice homework.

## Makeups!

With the exception of school sponsored activities where I have a signed letter from the faculty or staff member in charge on the appropriate letterhead in a timely manner before the activity, there are no make-ups for any reason. **This is why you are allowed to drop quizzes, clicker days, and you can replace an hour exam with a higher score on the final. Therefore don't squander these opportunities for non-essential reasons!**

## Grade determination

After each exam and at the end of the semester for the clicker, practicum quizzes, online homework, and final exam, a curve will be provided for each of the grading activities. Such a curve will indicate what score is allowed for the bottom A,B,C,D and F categories. These will then be compiled with the indicated weights to provide cutoffs for final grade calculation. Plus minus grades then result from anyone who is within 2% of a cutoff. Being just below a cutoff earns you the plus grade for the lower letter and just above the cutoff a minus with the higher letter. For example, if the final cutoff for an A turned out to be 88%, then overall scores of 92%,90%,87.9%, and 85.8% would earn grades of  $A$ ,  $A^-$ ,  $B^+$ , and  $B$  respectively.