

MCS-121-001,002 – Calculus I – Fall 2001

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Calculus in many ways is the culmination of 17th century European mathematics. Problems in integral calculus (finding complicated areas) and differential calculus (finding instantaneous rates of change and tangents) date back to antiquity, but the genius of Newton and Leibniz was connecting differential and integral calculus with “The Fundamental Theorem of Calculus”.

Web Page: The best source of information about this course is available at <http://www.gac.edu/~mmcdermo/mcs121/f01/> There you will find a complete syllabus, course description, current homework assignments, and so on.

Classes: Classes give you an introduction to the material that you need to learn and help you find ways to learn it. Regular attendance, both physical and mental, is expected. Should you need to miss a class for any reason, you are still responsible for the material covered in that class. If there is an assignment due that day, you should be sure to have a friend hand it in or put it in my departmental mailbox (in Olin 324). You do not need to tell me why you missed a class unless there is a compelling reason for me to know.

Calculators: You should have a graphing calculator available for use in class and on exams. If you do not have access to a calculator, please talk to me.

Homework & Late Assignments: There are two types of homework in this course, preparation problems (WeBWork), and weekly homework. For details, see the course web page. Prep problems, when assigned, must be done before the beginning of class, by the time deadline given; no late assignments will be accepted. However, I will drop the three lowest prep problem scores. Weekly homework is usually due on Fridays at the **beginning** of class. You can turn in one assignment late without penalty, provided it is turned in by the Tuesday following the week that it is due. I will drop your lowest homework score.

Exams: We will have two in-class skills test, two evening exams during the semester and a cumulative final exam. The exams during the semester are tentatively scheduled for September 19 (in class), October 10 (5:30 or 7:30 p.m.), October 29 (in class), and November 19 (5:30 or 7:30 p.m.). The final exam will be given Monday, December 17, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Make-up exams will not be given except for medical or family emergencies. In particular, make-up exams will never be given to accommodate travel plans. If you cannot take an exam because of a valid academic conflict, see me this week so we can make arrangements.

Evaluation: Your course grade will be determined using the following percentages as a guide:

Prep Problems, Class Participation	5%
Weekly Homework	15%
Ch. 1 skills test	10%
Derivative skills test	15%
Exams (2)	40%
Final	25%

But wait, that adds up to 110%. See the web page for how to adjust that number.

Office hours: I will be in my office (OHS 313) and available for questions, discussion, and general conversation during office hours. If you can't come during any of these times, please call (7478) or e-mail (mmcdermo@gac.edu) and make an appointment. Please do not hesitate to come see me—in fact, I strongly encourage you to do so. See my webpage or the course webpage for my current office hours.

Area D: Calculus I (MCS-121) satisfies the Quantitative Reasoning criteria of Area D. For more information, see the course web page.