

Instructor: Michael Pelsmajer (pelsmajer@iit.edu)

Contact me by email. I will also email you, so you need to check your hawk.iit.edu email frequently. (What you should really do is set up your emails so that they all go to one account.)

Office Hours: Monday and Friday 11:30am-12:30pm, and by appointment. To arrange a meeting, talk to me before or after class, or send an e-mail with a list of convenient times.

Office: Engineering 1 Building, Room 206 (312.567.5344 but email is usually better)

Web page: <http://www.math.iit.edu/~pelsmaje/Math152-Spring2014.htm> (or Google “Pelsmajer” to find my main web page, then scroll down to “Teaching”, Spring 2014, etc.)

Class meetings: 10:00-11:15am MWF in Wishnick Hall 116.

You should come to class *ready to learn*: Awake, alert, caught up on earlier material, and it’s also incredibly helpful to read material before the lecture. I’m not suggesting that you need to figure out everything on your own—this is not an independent study course. Rather...

How to read material before a lecture: You should attempt to understand each thing you read, persisting until you either succeed or until you get stuck in a confusing point. You may realize that you need to review something from an earlier class: if so, do that. Finally, think a bit about the big picture and try to decide what is most important.

Now you are ready for class.

Lab/Recitation: 10:00am-11:15am Thursdays.

Labs are in Stuart Building rooms 112E and 112F. Recitations are in Perlstein Hall room 109. See the class web page for the weekly schedule.

Most labs will have a Mathematica assignment. You can work on the assignment with a partner during the lab. Then finish it at home and hand it in the following week.

At recitations, you will work in groups to solve problems, then present solutions at the board.

Homework: The heart of the course is working through problems. Homework problems will be assigned, collected, and graded via *WebAssign*. You will get a chance to redo incorrect problems. The expectation is that you get 100%.

Do your work on paper, then put the answers into WebAssign. Keep paper copies of your work; sometimes I will collect it. Make it neat and well-organized. (Suggestion: print the assignment, go away from the computer to do the assignment, then go back to the computer to enter in the answers.) Make any corrections on paper again, before re-entering them into the computer.

If you are still getting a problem wrong after two or three times, seek help. You only have a limited number of attempts; don’t waste them. Don’t just guess.

Multiple Attempts: Usually, you will have 5 chances to get it right. Sometimes, you will only have 3 chances to get it right; then the problem will change a bit, and you will have 3 more chances to do the changed version. You normally get full credit for doing a problem even if it takes you multiple attempts, but for multiple choice questions, each wrong answer costs you partial credit.

Late work: If you do not finish an assignment on time, you can take an “Automatic Extension”, which gives you two extra days to work on problems. You can do this as often as you want, and you don’t need to provide any reason for doing so. However, late problems are penalized 20% each time their due date is extended. (Problems which are already correct will not be penalized.) One week after the original due date, no more extensions are allowed.

Special extensions: If the automatic extension is no longer available and/or if there is some special circumstance that the instructor should know about, you can ask for a “Manual Extension”. It may or may not be granted, and late problems may or may not be penalized. (Problems which are already correct will not be penalized.) You must give a good reason for the request.

Solutions: After an assignment is due, you can find it in “Past Assignments”. From there you can request extensions and see the answer key (and sometimes detailed solutions, too). However, once you look at the answer key, you can no longer take an extension on that assignment.

The Purpose of Homework: Working problems is how you learn mathematics. Homework is not supposed to test your knowledge; that’s what the exams are for. You can work with classmates (or independently), get help from the TA, or whatever you need. Just don’t forget that that the goal is to learn.

Exams: There will be three exams held during regular class meetings on February 19, March 31, and April 30, and a cumulative final exam on Thursday, May 8, 8:00-10:00 a.m. (scheduled by the registrar). Make-up exams will be given only in case of a documented emergency.

Tip: When I write exams, I think about what was covered during the lectures and on homeworks.

No calculators on exams! (Also no iPads, cell phones, etc. Also no notes, headphones, talking, etc.) You should mostly avoid using a calculator when doing your homework, since you need to develop calculator-free working habits, in order to be ready for quizzes and exams.

On the other hand, you will be learning to use Mathematica, a powerful tool for mathematical computation. It is related to Wolfram Alpha, which is another good tool.

Grading scheme: 70% of your final grades is fixed: Exams 60%, WebAssign 5%, Communication 5%. The remaining 30% is flexible, depending on what your strengths are: 10% each for $\max(\text{Exams}, \text{WebAssign})$, $\max(\text{Exams}, \text{Communication})$, and $\max(\text{Exams}, \text{Lectures})$. Total: 100%.

This gives you multiple ways to succeed. For example, if you have a 95/100 exam average and weaker scores for everything else, exams will be worth 90% of your grade. On the other hand, if you have a 75/100 exam average and higher scores for everything else, your grade will be 60% Exams, 15% WebAssign, 15% Communications, and 10% Lectures.

A perfect score of 100/100 in “Lectures” can be achieved by missing at most 3 regular class meetings. 10 points are deducted for each additional class missed. Points can also be gained or lost for participation (e.g., snoozing or surfing the internet) and being late.

The WebAssign score is the average of all the WebAssign homework scores.

The Exam score is split evenly among the four exams.

Communications has two parts, recitations and labs. A perfect “recitation” score requires attendance, group participation, and presenting problems at the board. Each lab there will be something to do, and then you will have to write a lab report; the lab reports determine your grade for “lab”.

Lab Reports: This includes the results of your experiments, your conclusions, and discussions of anything else interesting you observed, nicely written and nicely organized. You will be graded on correctness, language, and clarity.

You can work with one other person, handing in a single lab report, and sharing a single grade. However, anyone who does not physically attend the lab (or who is more than a few minutes late) is not allowed to collaborate in this way. Outside of this partnership, you cannot share any written work with anyone else. Discussion, however, is unlimited and encouraged.

Lab reports are due at precisely 10:00am, one week after the lab class where it was assigned.

There will sometimes be the opportunity to revise a lab report for an improved grade, but only if the original submission was good enough.

The grading scale is A: 90–100%, B: 80–89%, C: 70–79%, D: 60–69%, E: 0–59%.

Homework 00, due next class:

1. What do you prefer to be called (your name or a nickname)?
2. What’s your major (official or intended)?
3. What else is interesting/exciting/absorbing (non-academic or academic) for you?
4. Anything else you’d like me to know?