

MAT 127: Calculus C, Fall 2010

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

- (1) Can I use the 3rd edition of the textbook? In principle, yes, but make sure to do the assigned exercises from the 4th edition, since some exercises have changed. A couple of sections were removed from the 3rd edition, while others were slightly modified. So there are some differences, but they do not make the 3rd edition unusable, if you know someone with the 4th edition. Of more concern is that your preference for using the 3rd edition may be an indication that you have not taken calculus in a while; this would reduce your chances of passing without significant effort on your part more than any difference in the two editions. **Textbook**
- (2) When are your office hours? See the course website or the *Teaching Staff, etc.* handout. **OHS**
- (3) I cannot come to your office hours this week. Can I go to the other instructor's office hours? Absolutely, even if you can also go to your instructor's office hours; see the course website or the *Teaching Staff, etc.* handout. **OHS**
- (4) I have to be out of town when the next problem set is due, because ... Can I turn it in one day late? No, but you are welcome to turn it in to your instructor before you leave campus (as long as this is before the due time); see the *Course Information* and *Additional Course Information* handouts. **HW**
- (5) I'd like to attend a different section this week. Can I turn in my problem set then? Your problem set must be turned in to the instructor of the section you are registered in and before the due time for the section you are registered in; see the *General Course Information* and *Additional Course Information* handouts. **HW**
- (6) I am sick today. Can I turn in my problem set tomorrow (after the due time)? No, please ask someone else to drop the problem set off for you. You can also scan (or typeset) your solutions and e-mail them as a **pdf file only** to your instructor before the due time, provided they are readable (in the instructor's view). In the worst case, your overall grade will not directly suffer from missing one homework anyway because the lowest homework grade is dropped; however, if you do not actually do the homework, your overall grade will no doubt suffer from lower scores on the exams. **HW**
- (7) I have exams in another class during the midterms in this class. Can I make them up the following mornings? Absolutely not; furthermore, it is against university rules to sign up for classes with conflicting exams. **Exams**
- (8) I have to miss the upcoming midterm because ... Can I take it at another time? No make-up exams will be given. However, if you have a legitimate and well-documented reason for missing a midterm or the early exam, it will be waived for you as described in the *Additional Course Information* handout. **Exams**
- (9) What was the class average/median on the midterm? It does not matter; see the *General Course Information* handout. **Grading**
- (10) Around what letter grade is this class "curved"? This class is not "curved"; see the *General Course Information* handout. **Grading**

- (11) What percentage will fail this class? This class is not “curved”, and thus there is no pre-set distribution of letter grades. In theory, it is possible that no one will fail or that everyone will fail; in practice, the situation will no doubt be somewhere in-between. See the *General Course Information* handout. **Grading**
- (12) How are the letter grades decided? The letter grade breakdowns for the semester will be based on the letter grade breakdowns for the exams and the homeworks. The letter grade breakdowns for the exams and the homeworks will be based on their difficulty in accordance with the university grading policy **Grading**
- <http://sb.cc.stonybrook.edu/bulletin/current/policiesandregulations/recordsregistration/gradingsystem.php>
- not based on the class average.
- (13) In my previous calculus course, a good final exam grade was weighted heavier than initially specified. Will this be done in this course? Absolutely not. There will **no** changes to the grading policy described in the *General Course Information* handout; so you know precisely what to expect. While the final exam will be fairly cumulative, the other exams and the homework are integral parts of this course. **Grading**
- (14) How do I drop down to MAT 126? Between the add/drop date (September 15) and the MAT drop down deadline (October 22), stop by the Undergraduate Math Office, Math P-143, M-F 9am-4pm. **Drop-down**
- (15) My weighted total for the semester is just below the * cut-off. Can I make up some work or take another test to increase my weighted total just a little bit? No, a cut-off is a cut-off. The grading policy described in the *General Course Information* handout will be applied in the same way to everyone in the class. **Letter grade changes**
- (16) My weighted total for the semester is just below the *C* cut-off. Can I get a *C* so that I do not have to retake this course? No, a cut-off is a cut-off; no matter what it is, someone’s grade will be just below it. Your letter grade will not be changed unless your *entire* final exam is re-evaluated resulting in your weighted total reaching the *C* cut-off. This is extremely unlikely to happen because all final exams resulting in weighted totals close to the *C* cut-off will have been re-examined before the letter grade cut-offs are announced. Putting a lot of effort into the homework (into doing it yourself, not copying from someone else) during the semester should help you avoid just barely failing the course. **Letter grade changes**
- (17) I am on academic probation (or need a specific minimum GPA for my fellowship). Can you change my *D* to a *C*? Absolutely not; this would be completely inappropriate. Your letter grade can be based only on your performance in the class and not on what grade you “need”. You should worry about possible consequences of failing this course throughout the semester, not after the final exam. Even if failing this course will not immediately jeopardize your academic standing, there is no guarantee you’ll be allowed to re-take MAT 127 at Stony Brook: **Letter grade changes**

<http://www.stonybrook.edu/aadvising/retake.shtml>.

You are either perfectly capable of passing this course by working sufficiently hard during the semester or should not be in this course to begin with (no matter whether you have met the nominal prerequisites).