

MAT 127: Calculus C, Spring 2015

Comments on the Midterm II Results

The letter grade splits for the second midterm are:

MTII score	80+	65-79	52-64	35-51	34-
letter grade	A-/A	B±	C/C+	D	F

If you would like to discuss how a specific problem was graded on your midterm, please speak with the primary grader for the problem as indicated below:

MTII Problem	1	2	3	4	5	6
grader	AD	MLM	XW	YW	MK	AZ

When you meet with the grader you must have a print-out of the solutions to the midterm. Your grade will be changed, *up or down*, only if your solution was graded in a way inconsistent with how other students' solutions were graded.

This exam indicates that many of you have at least some understanding of the content of MAT 127 so far, but have trouble with basic algebra, which makes it difficult for you to demonstrate your understanding and get points for it. For example, some of you have trouble simplifying fractions; many of you have trouble with exponents. All of you know that $2+2=4$, but this is the last third of calculus, and thus you should also see immediately that

$$\sqrt{4^n} = 2^n, \quad \frac{3^n}{2^n} = \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^n, \quad \frac{\sqrt{4^n+1}}{3^n} = \sqrt{\frac{4^n}{9^n} + \frac{1}{9^n}}.$$

You are unlikely to pass this course unless you are very proficient with basic algebra, but most of you can fairly easily become proficient with some practice (this is much easier than predator-prey systems and sequences/series).

With the scores for the second midterm entered into *BlackBoard*, the maximum possible *WeightedTotal* is 65% (the two midterms at 25% each and HW at 15%). The final exam is worth 35%. Your scores on HW8-13 will still effect your HW grade and thus the overall grade; your current HW score is the weighted average of the available HW scores, with the lowest of them dropped.

The **deadline** to withdraw from MAT 127 is 4pm on Friday, April 3. Thus, you need to decide *immediately* whether to remain in this course. The following rough guidelines regarding your standing in the course are intended to help you arrive at this decision. They assume that your current WT is computed correctly (i.e. as described in the previous paragraph), which you should be able to verify yourself.

- If your WT is below 28, you have no realistic chance of passing (C or better) this course and should take this last-minute opportunity to withdraw from this course.
- If your WT is the 28-37 range, you may be able to pass this course by trying very hard, but how hard depends on other factors and you should probably discuss your standing with your instructor on Friday morning.

- If your WT is in the low 50s, you may be able to manage to pull up to an *A*, but this may require tremendous effort (unlike the previous case, getting even 80% of the remaining points would not constitute such an effort).
- If your WT is somewhere between upper 30s and low 50s, first and foremost make sure to pass the course. This should be quite feasible for you, as long as you do not fall behind (in particular, you must have a reasonable understanding of sequences/series in order to pass this course).

If you want to improve your standing in the class or to prevent it from getting worse, you may need to focus more on it than you have so far, and not just before the exams. Reading the book or the course summaries, attending lectures or review sessions, or going to MLC or RTC is likely to be pointless unless you try to do lots of exercises **by yourself** and succeed in doing so in most cases. It may also help if you do not treat MAT 127 as some distraction from texting and web-surfing, as some of you seem to do during lectures and review sessions and even more likely do so when working on exercises. It is of course up to you whether to do well in this course and if so how to do this.

If you fail MAT 127, you will need to ask for a retake permission from *Academic Advising* to repeat it; there is no guarantee it will be granted. So if you can still pass this course, try to do so the best you can.

Good luck in the rest of the semester!