CLASS MEETING SCHEDULE:
Section 1: MW 9:30AM – 10:45AM in LA5-171.

INSTRUCTOR:
Tangan Gao
E-mail: tgao@csulb.edu (preferable way to reach me).
Web address: http://www.csulb.edu/~tgao.

OFFICE HOURS:
MW 10:45AM-11:45AM, 6:00PM-7:00PM; TTh 6:00PM-7:00PM and by appointment.

TEXTBOOK:
Elementary Differential Equations and Boundary Value Problems (8th Ed.) by Boyce and Diprima, Wiley.
Bring your textbook to every class meeting.

COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:
First order ordinary differential equations, linear second order ordinary differential equations, numerical solution of initial value problems, Laplace transforms, matrix algebra, eigenvalues, eigenvectors, applications.

HOMEWORK:
Homework questions will be assigned each week, but will not be collected.
You are expected to know how to solve all these questions. Solving these questions is an effective way to prepare yourself for quizzes and exams. Quiz questions will be directly chosen from the homework assignments. It is extremely important that you try to solve the questions yourself first before getting help.

QUIZZES:
There will be a quiz every Monday except on the days where a test is scheduled. Each quiz is worth 20 points.

TESTS:
There will be three tests worth 100 points each and a comprehensive final exam worth 200 points. The final will be held from 8:00PM to 10:00PM on 5/25.
Only one makeup test will be given if you have a valid excuse such as illness or accident. It is your responsibility to promptly contact the instructor and provide the necessary documentation.
You may use a calculator (< $100) during exams. All exams will be based on the material discussed in class and your homework.

GRADING SCALE:
90 – 100% = A, 80 – 89% = B, 70 – 80% = C, 60 – 70% = D, 0 – 59% = F.
Your course grade will be based on a total of about 700 points: 300 from the hour-tests, 200 from the final and about 200 from the quizzes. Three lowest scores among all quiz scores will be dropped. There will be no makeup quizzes. Your Grades will not be curved!
CLASS ATTENDANCE:

Class attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class meeting. Three points will be deducted from your total score for each missed class without a valid excuse. Students who miss a class should copy classmates’ notes for that meeting.

Any changes in this syllabus or in the schedules of tests, quizzes, etc., will be announced during class meetings.

OTHER UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE POLICIES:

It is the student’s responsibility to enroll in or withdraw from this course in accordance with University and College policies. All deadlines are observed.

It is the student’s responsibility to notify the instructor in advance of the need for accommodation of a university verified disability.

Students are encouraged to work in small groups on course material and homework. For tests and quizzes, the code of the California Administrative Code, Title 5, Section 41301 is applied.

Any office hour may be canceled due to illness or necessary appointments, and students should therefore not depend upon a faculty member being in his/her office for a particular office hour. Students thus should secure any necessary signatures or other such requirements well in advance of any deadline.

SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR YOUR STUDY:

First, you must recognize there is a difference between understanding something and knowing how to do it. For example, if you play basketball, you may understand the job is to score a basket, but you may not have the skill to get the ball through the hoop. In math, you may understand a question, but you may not have the algebraic skill to do the question. In basketball, the only way to get the shooting skill is to shoot lots of baskets; in math, the only way to get the algebraic skill is to do lots of questions. If you can’t do a question at first, look back at the text, notes, etc, find out how and then repeat it until you can do it completely without help.

- Attend every class meeting. Be active in class.
- After each class meeting, read class notes or textbook, and do the corresponding homework. Study together with a couple of classmates or friends if possible.
- Understand (not simply memorize) the concepts and methods. When you know what are really going on behind them, you will easily remember them.
- Every weekend, summarize what you learn during the week, what you understand and what you don’t understand.
- Problems can be easily solved when they are still small. Get help as soon as possible.
- Remember two words “WORK HARD”. Studying math is not an easy job.

It gets a little easier the more you do it.