

COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: MATH-252: Applied Differential Equations

CLASS SECTION: Section X01

TERM: WINTER 2026

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S): FACE-TO-FACE

Camosun College campuses are located on the traditional territories of the Ləkʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples. We acknowledge their welcome and graciousness to the students who seek knowledge here. Learn more about Camosun's [Territorial Acknowledgement](#).

INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

NAME: Leah Howard

EMAIL: HowardL@camosun.ca

OFFICE: CBA 151, Interurban

HOURS: Mon 10:30-11:20, Tues 1:30-2:20, Wed 12:30-1:20, Thurs 2:30-3:20, Fri 1:30-2:20

WEBSITE: www.leahhoward.com

As your course instructor, I endeavour to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me. Camosun College is committed to identifying and removing institutional and social barriers that prevent access and impede success.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This first course in differential equations includes solving and modeling with first-order differential equations, solving and modeling with linear differential equations of higher order including applications such as spring-mass systems, finding series solutions of linear differential equations, using Laplace transforms to solve linear initial value problems, and solving systems of linear differential equations. Applications to engineering are provided throughout the course.

Restricted to students in the Engineering Bridge.

PREREQUISITE(S):

MATH 250A, MATH 251

CO-REQUISITE(S):

Not Applicable

EXCLUSION(S):

Not Applicable

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Solve various types of first-order differential equations (DEs): separable, linear, exact, nth-degree homogeneous, and Bernoulli.
2. Solve higher-order linear DEs using a variety of techniques including reduction of order, variation of parameters, and undetermined coefficients.
3. Model real-life phenomenon with DEs, including exponential growth and decay, falling bodies with and without air resistance, LCR circuits, and mass-spring systems.
4. Find a power series solution for a linear DE.
5. Use a Laplace transform and its properties to solve a linear IVP.
6. Solve systems of linear DEs using matrices.

REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

A scientific calculator (non-programmable, non-graphing).

There is no required textbook. Suggested homework problems are on D2L and full solutions are on the course website.

Optional Text: ***Differential Equations with Modelling Applications*** by Zill
Can be purchased at the Camosun Bookstore.

COURSE SCHEDULE, TOPICS, AND ASSOCIATED PREPARATION / ACTIVITY / EVALUATION

The following schedule and course components are subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

1.1 Definitions and Terminology

1.2 Initial-Value Problems

2.2 Separable Variables

2.3 Linear Equations

2.4 Exact Equations

2.5 Solutions by Substitutions

3.1 Linear Models

4.1 Preliminary Theory of Higher-Order DE

4.2 Reduction of Order

4.3 Homogeneous Linear Equations with Constant Coefficients

4.4 Undetermined Coefficients: Superposition Approach

4.6 Variation of Parameters

4.7 Cauchy-Euler Equations

5.1 Linear Models: Initial-Value Problems
6.2 Series Solutions About Ordinary Points

7.1 Definition of the Laplace Transform
7.2 Inverse Transforms and Transforms of Derivatives
7.3 Operational Properties I
7.4 Operational Properties II
7.5 The Dirac Delta Function

8.1 Preliminary Theory of Systems of DE
8.2 Homogeneous Linear Systems
8.3.2 Nonhomogeneous Linear Systems: Variation of Parameters

SEE LAST PAGE OF THIS DOCUMENT FOR A DETAILED SCHEDULE.

Students registered with the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) who complete quizzes, tests, and exams with academic accommodations have booking procedures and deadlines with CAL where advanced noticed is required. Deadlines scan be reviewed on the [CAL exams page](http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/exams.html). <http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/exams.html>

EVALUATION OF LEARNING

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
Test 1 (50 minutes long, Covers 1.1, 1.2, 2.2-2.5)	18%
Test 2 (50 minutes long, Covers 3.1, 4.1-4.4)	18%
Test 3 (50 minutes long, Covers 4.6, 4.7, 5.1, 6.2)	18%
Four Assignments worth 1.5% each Will be marked for completion	6%
Final Exam (three hours long, Covers entire course)	40%
TOTAL	100%

If you have a concern about a grade you have received for an evaluation, please come and see me as soon as possible. Refer to the [Grade Review and Appeals](http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf) policy for more information.

<http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf>

If a student misses a test for any reason then the weighting will be shifted to the final exam. If a student misses two or more tests then the instructor will devise a plan on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the student.

COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

The secret to success in this course is doing your suggested homework problems after each section. If you have questions: Ask me after class, come to office hours, or email me.

SCHOOL OR DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

Free math help is available in the Math Lab, TEC 142.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

Enrolment at Camosun assumes that the student will become a responsible member of the College community. As such, each student will display a positive work ethic, assist in the preservation of College property, and assume responsibility for their education by researching academic requirements and policies; demonstrating courtesy and respect toward others; and respecting expectations concerning attendance, assignments, deadlines, and appointments.

SUPPORTS AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

Camosun College offers a number of services to help you succeed in and out of the classroom. For a detailed overview of the supports and services visit <http://camosun.ca/students/>.

Academic Advising	http://camosun.ca/advising
Accessible Learning	http://camosun.ca/accessible-learning
Counselling	http://camosun.ca/counselling
Career Services	http://camosun.ca/coop
Financial Aid and Awards	http://camosun.ca/financialaid
Help Centres (Math/English/Science)	http://camosun.ca/help-centres
Indigenous Student Support	http://camosun.ca/indigenous
International Student Support	http://camosun.ca/international/
Learning Skills	http://camosun.ca/learningskills
Library	http://camosun.ca/services/library/
Office of Student Support	http://camosun.ca/oss
Ombudsperson	http://camosun.ca/ombuds
Registration	http://camosun.ca/registration

If you have a mental health concern, please contact Counselling to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. Counselling sessions are available at both campuses during business hours. If you need urgent support after-hours, please contact the Vancouver Island Crisis Line at 1-888-494-3888 or call 911.

COLLEGE-WIDE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, REQUIREMENTS, AND STANDARDS

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The College is committed to providing appropriate and reasonable academic accommodations to students with disabilities (i.e. physical, depression, learning, etc). If you have a disability, the [Centre for Accessible Learning](#) (CAL) can help you document your needs, and where disability-related barriers to access in your courses exist, create an accommodation plan. By making a plan through CAL, you can ensure you have the appropriate academic accommodations you need without disclosing your diagnosis or condition to course instructors. Please visit the CAL website for contacts and to learn how to get started:

<http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/>

Academic Integrity

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.13.pdf> for policy regarding academic expectations and details for addressing and resolving matters of academic misconduct.

Academic Progress

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.1.pdf> for further details on how Camosun College monitors students' academic progress and what steps can be taken if a student is at risk of not meeting the College's academic progress standards.

Course Withdrawals Policy

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.2.pdf> for further details about course withdrawals. For deadline for fees, course drop dates, and tuition refund, please visit <http://camosun.ca/learn/fees/#deadlines>.

Grading Policy

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf> for further details about grading.

Grade Review and Appeals

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf> for policy relating to requests for review and appeal of grades.

Mandatory Attendance for First Class Meeting of Each Course

Camosun College requires mandatory attendance for the first class meeting of each course. If you do not attend, and do not provide your instructor with a reasonable reason in advance, you will be removed from the

course and the space offered to the next waitlisted student. For more information, please see the “Attendance” section under “Registration Policies and Procedures” (<http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/procedures.html>) and the Grading Policy at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf>.

Medical / Compassionate Withdrawals

Students who are incapacitated and unable to complete or succeed in their studies by virtue of serious and demonstrated exceptional circumstances may be eligible for a medical/compassionate withdrawal. Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.8.pdf> to learn more about the process involved in a medical/compassionate withdrawal.

Sexual Violence and Misconduct

Camosun is committed to creating a campus culture of safety, respect, and consent. Camosun’s Office of Student Support is responsible for offering support to students impacted by sexual violence. Regardless of when or where the sexual violence or misconduct occurred, students can access support at Camosun. The Office of Student Support will make sure students have a safe and private place to talk and will help them understand what supports are available and their options for next steps. The Office of Student Support respects a student’s right to choose what is right for them. For more information see Camosun’s Sexualized Violence and Misconduct Policy: <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.9.pdf> and camosun.ca/sexual-violence. To contact the Office of Student Support: oss@camosun.ca or by phone: 250-370-3046 or 250-3703841

Student Misconduct (Non-Academic)

Camosun College is committed to building the academic competency of all students, seeks to empower students to become agents of their own learning, and promotes academic belonging for everyone. Camosun also expects that all students to conduct themselves in a manner that contributes to a positive, supportive, and safe learning environment. Please review Camosun College’s Student Misconduct Policy at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.5.pdf> to understand the College’s expectations of academic integrity and student behavioural conduct.

Changes to this syllabus: Every effort has been made to ensure that information in this syllabus is accurate at the time of publication. The College reserves the right to change courses if it becomes necessary so that course content remains relevant. In such cases, the instructor will give the students clear and timely notice of the changes.

Math 252 Schedule, Winter 2026

Jan 5-9	1.1, 1.2
Jan 12-16	2.2, 2.3
Jan 19-23	2.3-2.5 Assignment One is due Thurs Jan 22
Jan 26-30	3.1 Test One is Thurs Jan 29
Feb 2-6	4.1-4.3
Feb 9-13	4.4, 4.6
Feb 16-20	Reading Week
Feb 23-27	4.6, 4.7 Assignment Two is due Mon Feb 23 Test Two is Thurs Feb 26
Mar 2-6	5.1, 6.2
Mar 9-13	6.2, 7.1, 7.2 Assignment Three is due Thurs Mar 12
Mar 16-20	7.2, 7.3 Test Three is Thurs Mar 19
Mar 23-27	7.3-7.5, 8.1
Mar 30 – Apr 3	8.2 Friday April 3 is a holiday
Apr 6-10	8.3 Monday April 6 is a holiday Assignment Four is due Tues April 7

Tentative Test Coverage

Test One: 1.1, 1.2, 2.2-2.5

Test Two: 3.1, 4.1-4.4

Test Three: 4.6, 4.7, 5.1, 6.2