

Math 125 – Calculus I
Section #39486D (Fall 2023)

Instructor	Alexander (Alec) Sahakian	TA	Jernej Grlj
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Office hours	Wed 9–11 AM & Fri 1–2 PM KAP 400C	Office hours	See math center schedule Math center, KAP 263

Course information

Course description. (*4 units*) Limits; continuity, derivatives and applications; antiderivatives; the fundamental theorem of calculus; exponential and logarithmic functions.

Lectures. Lectures will be held in-person at the times and location below. In rare circumstances, lectures may be held virtually via Zoom, or pre-recorded and posted to Blackboard – in these instances you’ll be notified in advance via Blackboard.

 | MWF 2–2:50 PM SOS B4

Office hours and appointments. My office hours will be held weekly in my office (KAP 400C) at the times indicated above. My office hours schedule may vary from week to week, and office hours may occasionally be held via Zoom – again, you’ll be notified of these updates in advance via Blackboard. Appointments outside of office hours may be held either in-person or via Zoom.

Course resources.

- *Textbook.* Our textbook is [Essential Calcululus \(2nd. ed.\)](#) by James Stewart. Make sure you get the standard version (dark red cover) and not the “Early Transcendentals” version (blue cover).
- *Blackboard.* We’ll use [Blackboard](#) as our course webpage and as the main means for distributing communications, assignments, quizzes, and other resources and information (e.g. changes to lecture or office hours schedules or formats) relating to the course. It’s your responsibility to check Blackboard regularly and stay up to date on the information posted there.
- *Gradescope.* We’ll use [Gradescope](#) to submit (and grade) all written work for the course; you must submit written work in PDF format (one PDF per assignment or exam). You can access Gradescope from Blackboard via the “Gradescope” link on the sidebar. Submitted problems which are illegible or of poor visual quality may be treated as incorrect.
- *Zoom.* We’ll occasionally use [Zoom](#) for office hours, appointments, and (rarely) lectures. You can access Zoom (including recordings) from Blackboard via the “Zoom” link on the sidebar.

Assignments, exams, and grading

Homework. Homework will be assigned approximately weekly via Blackboard. Every week some problems will be chosen to be graded for correctness, and the remaining problems will be graded for completion. All homework must be submitted via Gradescope.

Quizzes. Quizzes will also be assigned approximately weekly via Blackboard. They'll be takehome, and usually consist of two problems (give or take). Quizzes will be graded solely based on completion (i.e. if it looks like you made some effort, then you'll get full credit). All quizzes must be submitted via Gradescope.

- The point of the quizzes is just to serve as a weekly “check-in” for yourself to see how comfortable you are with that week’s material, and to give you an idea of the sorts of problems you may see on exams but in a “no pressure” format. I recommend you set a 20 minute time limit for yourself when you’re working on a quiz to get an idea of how you’d perform in an exam setting. Obviously this won’t be enforced, but whether or not you’re able to comfortably complete the quiz in that timeframe should give you a rough indication as to if you understand that week’s material well enough to be able to solve problems pertaining to that material on an actual exam.
- *Late homework and/or quizzes will not be accepted. At the end of the semester, your two lowest homework grades and your two lowest quiz grades will be dropped to accommodate for any unforeseen circumstances. It’s your responsibility to make sure that you are turning in the correct problems.*

Midterm exam. There will be a midterm exam approximately halfway through the semester. It’ll be held in-class, and submitted via Gradescope at the end of the class period. You’ll be allowed to bring one 8.5×11 inch (front and back) handwritten “cheat sheet” to the midterm. Calculators won’t be allowed on the midterm.

- *With the exception of emergencies, you must give a minimum two weeks advance notice to me via email for any request for an excused absence from the midterm or for an exam testing accommodation. In the case of an excused absence, the midterm grade will be replaced by the final exam grade.*

Final exam. There will be a final exam at the end of the semester, at the time and location below, according to [USC’s final exams schedule](#). The final is cumulative and written by the math department. It’s university policy that no student may take the final exam early or be allowed to skip it.

Wednesday December 6, 2023, 2–4 PM

Grading scheme. Your grade in the course will be calculated as follows.

Homework	30%	(2 lowest dropped)
Quizzes	20%	(2 lowest dropped)
Midterm exam	20%	
Final exam	30%	

Curving. Individual exams won’t be curved, but I’ll give you a rough informal indication as to what letter grade your score corresponds to according to the performance of the class, just so you can sort of track your progress in terms of a letter grade (e.g. if you get a 71/100 on the midterm, then it’ll enter the gradebook as a 71/100, and I may say something like “70–75/100” roughly places you at around an A– relative to the rest of the class’ scores). Instead, I’ll apply a curve to your overall grade at the end of the semester. I don’t “curve down” (e.g if you get an 89/100 in the course, which corresponds to a B+, then you’re guaranteed a B+ or better in the class).

Other policies

Collaboration. You’re strongly encouraged to work together on assignments. However, any written work you submit must be written in your own words. Work which is simply copied from another source (friend, another textbook, internet, etc.) will be considered plagiarized.

Regrades. If you believe that your work has been misgraded, then you must submit a written regrading request to me via email (with the TA CC'd) within one week of receiving the graded work. Regrade requests may only be made if you believe you've been marked off for a correct solution, not if you disagree with the number of points deducted for a genuine mistake.

Students with disabilities. Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with [Office of Student Accessibility Services \(OSAS\)](#) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from OSAS. If required, please make sure that the OSAS letter (for approved accommodations) is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. You can find contact information for OSAS [here](#).

Academic integrity. The instructor strongly adheres to the University policies regarding principles of academic honesty and academic integrity violations, and will strictly enforce these rules. Please refer to the [Student Handbook](#) on the [USC Office of Academic Integrity](#) website for a description of these standards.

Disclaimer. The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus at any time. Verbal or written changes announced in class are considered as an addendum to this syllabus. Students will be held responsible for all changes. *Last updated August 19, 2023.*