

First Day Handout M408D 57410, 57415, 57420

Neil Hoffman

Teaching Assistant and Supplemental Instructor

Email: nhoffman@math.utexas.edu

Office: RLM 11.104

Office Hours: MF 10-11, W 9-10 (Subject to Change)

My Website:

<http://www.ma.utexas.edu/~nhoffman/Spring2007/408D.html>

Professor Davis's Website: <http://www.ma.utexas.edu/~davis/408d/index.html>

This is the second class in the 408C-408D sequence. The techniques you learned in 408C will be very important to this class. Don't forget them, or better yet review them if you feel at all unsure of your knowledge of them. You can consider your text book as the encyclopedia of calculus. It has a lot of information and rarely will you have a question that a careful reading of your calculus book will not answer. Also, be aware that this class covers one and half semesters of calculus. The main problem that students have with this class is the speed at which material is presented. You will need to dedicate a fair bit of time on your own to make up for this fact. Also, the only way to learn mathematics is to do mathematics. So, you will find your command of the material will be insufficient if you are not putting in time on your own to really get to know the material.

The SI Program: This course was selected as a course for the Supplemental Instruction Program. Consequently, in addition to course content this course will also focus on study skills and participation. The vision I have for you as students is to be independent learners by the end of the course. We will build toward that end by focusing on how you can study more effectively and by actively doing math in discussion section.

Homework: This class is different from other calculus classes in the sense that you do not have graded homework. I highly suggest you do the homework. You will find that it is the best way to prepare for the weekly quizzes.

Weekly Quizzes: Instead of homework you will have regular quizzes in TA session. Typically, quizzes could be about 25 minutes long and they will be collected at the same time for all students. If you are late, you are missing valuable time to take the quiz. It is expected that your answers to the quizzes are both neat and complete. Each line should follow neatly and logically from the previous line. Equation are mathematical sentences; therefore they should be complete mathematical ideas. (See website for examples of good and bad write ups.)

Emailing me: Be sure to include you full name, your unique number and your

inquiry in each email you send me. This will help me associate a face with your email, allowing me to deal with your email more effectively. Be aware that whenever you email a professor, instructor, or teaching assistant, you are dealing with someone in an official capacity. This means that the format of the email should bear greater similarity to the format of a business letter as opposed to an IM chat.

Other resources: The UTLC offers free drop in tutoring for all students and 25 free tutoring hours for a surprising number of students (you should check to see if you qualify). In addition, the UTLC provides review sessions at the beginning and end of the semester for students. See the UTLC website for more information:

<http://www.utexas.edu/student/utlc/>

Your fellow students are also a great resource. If you find you are a more successful learner when you talk about the material, be sure to organize a regular study group with fellow students.