

# Math 135 Fall 2024

## Honors Calculus

MTWF 12:00-12:50PM (Miller 014)

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**Office Hours:** Monday 2:00-3:30PM, Wednesday 3:00-4:00PM,  
“Open Door Hours”, & by appointment

**Course Website:** <http://personal.colby.edu/~erandles/M135.html>  
**Personal Website:** <http://personal.colby.edu/~erandles/>

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(TA Office Hours: Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 7:00-9:00PM in (or around) Davis 209A)

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*Our lives and the universe barely work, but that's OK; it's amazing and great that they work at all. I think it has something to do with math, and especially real analysis, the theory behind calculus, which barely works... But, if you're a little careful you can get calculus to work. You'll see. – Frank Morgan, 2005.*

*The calculus was the first achievement of modern mathematics and it is difficult to overestimate its importance. I think it defines more unequivocally than anything else the inception of modern mathematics; and the system of mathematical analysis, which is its logical development, still constitutes the greatest technical advance in exact thinking. – John von Neumann, 1947*

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### Course Description:

In this course, we will go beyond being simple connoisseurs of calculus and focus on understanding what makes calculus “tick”, i.e., we will learn *how* calculus works. In service to this, we will investigate the various mathematical structures on which calculus is based, including the notion of a real number, basic point-set topology of the real number system, suprema and infima, notions of infinity, convergence, approximation, etc. We will learn the theory of sequence and series of real numbers (and functions) and develop the theory of one-variable differential calculus from (more or less) scratch. Throughout, we will talk about formal mathematical logic and learn how to read and write proofs. This course is part of a year-long two-course sequence (MA135-MA165); the focus in the second course is multivariable calculus. This honors sequence is for the intellectually (and mathematically) adventurous. While you (a student of honors calculus) will have undoubtedly seen some calculus before, what's important in this course is that you come with enthusiasm, curiosity, and a willingness to work hard.

## Textbook:

- *Understanding Analysis* by S. Abbott, 2nd ed.

I will assign weekly readings from the above (excellent) textbook. These readings should be done carefully, thoroughly, and before you come to class. Reading a mathematics textbook means to read with a pencil/pen in hand and work out all details carefully, especially those made within the course of a proof. When creating material for this course (the homework, exams, quizzes etc.), I like to draw from many different sources. In addition to the course textbooks, I will often consult *Calculus* by M. Spivak (2nd ed.) and *Real Analysis* by F. Morgan. Throughout the semester, I will assign short readings from many other sources and I'll make sure that you have access to them (usually through the Colby library).

**Grading:** Your grade will be calculated as follows:

Class participation:	5%
Weekly homework assignments:	30%
Quizzes:	10%
Minimum of Midterm 1 & 2	15%
Maximum of Midterm 1 & 2	20%
Final Exam:	20%

**Exams:** This course will have two midterms and one final exam. The exams will be at the following dates, times, and locations:

<b>Midterm 1</b>	<b>Wednesday, October 2nd, 7:00-8:30PM</b>	<b>Miller 014</b>
<b>Midterm 2</b>	<b>Wednesday, November 6th, 7:00-8:30PM</b>	<b>Miller 014</b>
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>Date/Time TBA</b>	<b>Location TBA</b>

It is crucial that you reserve these time slots for these exams. In the event that you are unable to attend a midterm exam, you must let me know at least **two weeks** prior to the exam date.

**Homework:** Homework is the most important part of this course. It is where you will grapple with new ideas, come up with creative solutions and communicate your thoughts and understanding to others. Consequently, it is crucial that you take homework very seriously. You should start homework early and work diligently. If you are having substantial difficulty with a particular exercise, please come talk to me during office hours. I am here to help! You are permitted and strongly encouraged to discuss homework with your classmates, however, when it comes time to write up your solutions, you are required to do so independently and away from your peers (in another room, preferably). If you work with peers, please list the names of all peers with whom you worked; failure to do so is a matter of academic dishonesty and will result in grade penalties and/or reports of academic negligence/dishonesty. Your proofs/solutions should communicate your individual process and understanding of the material. What you turn in must be your own.

The homework for this class will be a mix of proof-based exercises and theory-reinforcing exercises (where you may be asked to “cook up” an example), and calculation-based exercises. As part of the goal of this course is to learn and develop your proof skills, we will ease into this and develop various strategies and practices as the semester progresses. Writing proofs is a difficult and monumental skill to master and we will work together to build and hone this skill. Please keep in mind

the following guidelines while writing and polishing your proofs: 1) Correctness is essential. 2) The longest proof is never the best; the shortest proof is rarely good. 3) Clarity is the ideal.

For your homework write-ups, I expect your solutions to be written out correctly and presented in good mathematical prose. Your grade will depend on the correctness of your solutions and the quality of your writing. This means that your writing should follow a coherent logical structure which makes use of complete sentences (whenever possible) and follows standard rules of grammar. Please do not submit solutions containing incoherent and unstructured calculations. You should be proud of the material you turn in!

One word of warning: Solutions for the book exercises are, quite unfortunately, easily found on the internet. Please do not go searching and looking for such solutions; doing so is not only a matter of academic dishonesty (if they are copied and submitted) but it will also hinder your learning. The process of struggling with, working hard, and figuring out solutions to exercises is precisely the method by which you will actually learn the material and be able to perform well on the exams. Of course, we all get stuck from time to time so, if you need help, please come to office hours (mine or the TAs) and, if it is helpful, talk with your peers.

*Homework Structure and Schedule:* Assignments will be posted to the course website and are due at 10:00AM on Thursdays in the appropriate box outside my office door (Davis209A) It is crucial to keep up with the homework in this course. Therefore, short of the circumstances discussed in the attendance policy below, late homework will not be accepted. I will drop your lowest homework score on the condition that you attend one Mathematics Department colloquium and write a short (one paragraph) summary.

*Homework Policies:*

1. All write-ups are to be submitted in hard copy. They should be single-sided with no more than one problem per page, i.e., if a homework assignment has 5 problems, you should turn in at least 5 pieces of paper.
2. Each paper you turn in should have your name and the due date printed clearly at the top.
3. Your write-ups should be paper-clipped. You should staple all papers corresponding to a single exercise together, but please paper-clip (not staple) the group of exercises together. It is your responsibility to make sure that your homework is complete and all pages are accounted for.

**Quizzes:** We will have a few quizzes throughout the semester, always given in class on Fridays. The quizzes will be limited to one or two problems each and they will parallel, in content and style, the problems seen in the homework. There are **no** make-up quizzes.

**Attendance and Class Participation:** You are required to attend each class session. This means that you need to be on time to class, seated, and ready to learn (take notes, participate, discuss, and engage). To learn mathematics, it is essential to discuss it with others and ask questions. Thus, you will be required to participate in class discussion and you will frequently be called on during lecture. It is for this reason that your on-time attendance is required.

With this being said, I also know that things come up that are outside of your control. To accommodate this, you are allowed 4 ‘free passes’ this semester that can be used for missing class, arriving late, or leaving early. Absence for religious reasons or for official Colby activities does not count as using a free pass as long as you communicate with me clearly beforehand. Using more than your 4 free passes will result in a reduction of final course grade.

**Office Hours:** You are strongly encouraged to attend office hours and do so regularly. Office hours are the perfect venue for asking questions, getting help, and having real one-on-one time with me. For my office hours to be most beneficial to you and fair to your peers, my office-hour policies are as follows:

- If you are attending office hours to get help with a homework problem, you must first have spent a considerable amount of time ( $\geq 30$  minutes) thinking about/attempting to solve the exercise. In particular, you must have parsed through the definitions (e.g., know the vocabulary), compared the exercise against what we’ve done in class and similar examples from the textbook(s), and made an earnest attempt at reaching a solution/proof and be prepared to show me your attempt.
- To be most effective in helping students with homework problems, I will help students individually and so please be prepared to wait your turn.
- For all other questions about the course (including general questions on the material), I’m very happy to talk to groups of students.

*Open Door Policy:* I maintain an “open door policy.” This means that, if you find my (inner) office door open and I’m inside, I am likely available to chat and help. In that case, please knock on my door and ask if I am available.

**My Email Policy:** I love talking about mathematics and I always prefer to do it in person. For this reason, I like to, whenever possible, reserve email for logistical things. However, when you are stuck and cannot come see me in person, please feel free to email me. I am here to help!

As my life is busy and I have many responsibilities, I usually only check and respond to email once per day and sometimes not at all on weekends. For this reason, I try to uphold the following 24-48 hour rule: If you send an email Sunday through Thursday, I will do my best to respond within 24 hours. If you send an email on Friday or Saturday, I will do my best to respond within 48 hours. If I do not respond within these windows, feel free to email me again as I may have missed it.

**Academic Integrity:** Honesty, integrity, and personal responsibility are cornerstones of a Colby education and provide the foundation for scholarly inquiry, intellectual discourse, and an open and welcoming campus community. These values are articulated in the Colby Affirmation and are central to this course. You are expected to demonstrate academic honesty in all aspects of this course. If you are clear about course expectations, give credit to those whose work you rely on, and submit your best work, you are highly unlikely to commit an act of academic dishonesty.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to: violating clearly stated rules for taking an exam or completing homework; plagiarism (including material from sources without a citation and

quotation marks around any borrowed words); claiming another's work or a modification of another's work as one's own; buying or attempting to buy papers or projects for a course; fabricating information or citations; knowingly assisting others in acts of academic dishonesty; misrepresentations to faculty within the context of a course; and submitting the same work, including an essay that you wrote, in more than one course without the permission of the instructors.

Academic dishonesty is a serious offense against the college. Sanctions for academic dishonesty are assigned by an academic review board and may include failure on the assignment, failure in the course, or suspension or expulsion from the College.

For more on recognizing and avoiding plagiarism, see the library guide at the following website: [libguides.colby.edu/avoidingplagiarism](http://libguides.colby.edu/avoidingplagiarism)

### *The Colby Affirmation*

Colby College is a community dedicated to learning and committed to the growth and well-being of all its members.

As a community devoted to intellectual growth, we value academic integrity. We agree to take ownership of our academic work, to submit only work that is our own, to fully acknowledge the research and ideas of others in our work, and to abide by the instructions and regulations governing academic work established by the faculty.

As a community built on respect for ourselves, each other, and our physical environment, we recognize the diversity of people that have gathered here and that genuine inclusivity requires active, honest, and compassionate engagement with one another. We agree to respect each other, to honor community expectations, and to comply with college policies.

As a member of this community, I pledge to hold myself and others accountable to these values.