

- Instructor:** Dr. Tom Cuchta
Email: tcuchta@fairmontstate.edu
Time: MWF 8:00-8:50
Location: HH 305 (**and virtual**)
Office: ET 423 (**and virtual**)
Drop-in office hours: Due to social distancing, please meet with me virtually for office hours whenever possible. You can email, private message (in teams), or video chat with me. Please see my website for the times when I have scheduled my daily “virtual office hours” when I will guarantee that I am available: <http://tomcuchta.com>. Their times may change throughout the semester; the website will always contain my current official schedule. Alternate times may always be scheduled.
- Class webpage:** <http://tomcuchta.com/teach/classes/2021/MATH3504-Spring2021-FairmontState/>
Textbook: “A First Course in Differential Equations” by J. David Logan (free download from the author’s website: <http://www.math.unl.edu/~jlogan1/PDFfiles/New3rdEditionODE.pdf>)
- Course description:** A study of first-order and simple higher-order ordinary differential equations and their applications, linear differential equations with constant coefficients and their application, simultaneous differential equations and their applications, the numerical solution of differential equations and solution of differential equations by use of series.
- Attendance policy:** In-person or virtual attendance itself will **not** be recorded for a grade. If a class is missed, then it is the *student’s responsibility* to find out what was missed.
- WeBWork:** Online homework will be administered through the Fairmont State instance of WeBWork, which can be found at <https://csmath.fairmontstate.edu/webwork2>. Homework may be attempted an infinite number of times, and the highest point score earned will be counted. There will also be points awarded for timely completion of a homework assignment.
- Accessing WeBWork:** The online homework is provided for **free** by Fairmont State University at our WeBWork server. This server can be accessed on campus by going to <https://csmath.fairmontstate.edu>. If you are off campus, then you will need to use the Fairmont State cloud service to access the online homework system. See the following webpage for an explanation of reaching WeBWork from off-campus: <http://tomcuchta.com/fsucsmathserver>.
- Exams:** There will be **no exams** in this course.
- Written work grades:** The content that would otherwise be on an exam will be broken down into smaller assignments. Your submissions will be vetted on a four-letter scale accompanied with feedback:

- “E” (+2) – excellent, meaning correct, with possibly minor calculation errors,
- “S” (+1) – some problems, there are some issues but you are on the right track,
- “T” (+0) – tried, meaning there are fundamental issues or misunderstandings but I can tell you made an honest attempt, and
- “N” (+0) – not gradable, does not seem to contain an honest attempt at the work.

There will be approximately two such assignments per week of class, each with its own due date that will be specified. Assignments that receive a grade of S, T, or N can be revised to improve your grade on it. Revisions must come with a reflection essay, at least two paragraphs long, containing **both** a description of what went wrong with your thinking and approach in the first submission **and** a description of what you did to improve it in the resubmitted version. Revision submissions that do not contain a proper reflection essay will be returned with the grade of N.

Timely completion: There will be some points assigned to you for completing your work in a timely fashion. You will receive +1 timely completion point for getting at least 50% correct on an online homework assignment within one week of it being assigned. For written work grades, you must submit your first attempt at a problem by its due date and also get a score of E, S, or T on it to get the +1. Otherwise you receive +0 timely completion points for that submission. Timely completion for homework submitted via Blackboard will be indicated by increasing the base score by 0.5. So for example, a “2.5” means you earned an “E” and received timely completion. ***Regardless if you attain the timely completion grade or not, you may still attempt all assignments as many times as you like.***

Cheating: I encourage you to work together, to attend tutoring, and to seek out help from me. However, copying the work of others and not putting in an honest effort yourself is not acceptable. If you are caught cheating on any assignments, then you will forfeit any points on that assignment with no possibility of revision. If you are caught cheating more than once, then you will receive an “F” in the course.

Safety: If you are attending class in-person then you must be wearing an appropriate face covering. Wearing a mask means that it entirely covers both your nose and mouth. Refusal to cooperate with this policy will result in removal from class and possibly referral to the Office of Student Conduct. In extreme situations, the campus police may need to be involved.

Student handbook: <http://www.fairmontstate.edu/publications/campushandbooks/studenthandbook/default.asp>
LEAD Center: The LEAD Center: The Learning Enrichment and Academic Development Center (LEAD) is located on the second floor of the library and provides students with free support resources, including learning assistance, both as drop-in and appointments. The LEAD Center opens no later than the second week of classes. For more information on services, hours, or a list of current workshops, visit <https://www.fairmontstate.edu/academics/lead-center>. You may also contact the coordinator Brittany Cuchta at lead@fairmontstate.edu.

Disability support: Disability services are available to any student, full or part-time, who has a need because of a documented disability. It is the ***student’s responsibility*** to register for disability services and to provide any necessary documentation to verify a disability or the need for accommodations. Students must provide their professors with a copy of their academic accommodation letter each semester in order to receive accommodations. Faculty, students, and the Office of Disability Services must cooperate to ensure the most effective provision of accommodations for each class.

The Office of Disability Services is located in suite 316 of the Turley Student Services Center. For additional information, please call (304) 333-3661 (**TTY:** (304) 367-4906).

Grades: There will be no more than 30 written homework assignments and no more than 25 online homework assignments. Probably there will be many fewer, but this cap will not be exceeded.

E	S	T	N
+2 written hw +1 timely	+1 written hw +1 timely	+0 written hw +1 timely	+0 written hw +0 timely

Grade	Written work	Homework percentage
A	≥90% of written work points	and ≥80% online homework score
B	≥80% of written work points	and ≥70% online homework score
C	≥70% of written work points	and ≥60% online homework score
D	≥60% of written work points	and ≥50% online homework score

Timely completion points convert into written work points:

5 timely completion points = 1 written work point

IMPORTANT: This conversion for timely completion can only increase your written work score by up to 10% of the total possible written work points. For example, this means that staying on top of your work could raise your final letter grade!