

Syllabus – Calculus 1 – Spring 2026

Instructor and Class Information

Instructor	Dr. Vince Guingona vguingona@towson.edu YR 226
Class Times	Monday and Wednesday, 10:00am – 11:50am, YR 216 Friday, 10:00am – 10:50am, YR 216
Office Hours	Monday, 2:00pm – 3:00pm Tuesday, 9:00am – 10:30am Friday, 11:00am – 12:00pm Or by appointment
Exam Dates	Wednesday, February 25, 10:00am – 11:00am Wednesday, April 1, 10:00am – 11:00am Wednesday, May 6, 10:00am – 11:00am
Final Exam	Saturday, May 16, 8:00am – 10:00am, YR 125

Course Information

Prerequisites: MATH 117, MATH 119, or a qualifying score on the Math Placement exam.

Course Description: Functions, limits, and continuity; differentiation of algebraic and trigonometric functions; mean value theorem; differentials; introduction to integration; applications. Four lecture hours and one laboratory hour per week.

Course Objectives: Besides introducing the student to the topics described in the course description, the course aims to help develop certain general skills, with emphasis on: analyzing numerical and graphical information, algebraic manipulation, and critical thinking. In particular, students will: construct and evaluate logical arguments; apply and adapt a variety of appropriate strategies to solve mathematical problems; recognize and apply mathematics in contexts outside of mathematics; organize and consolidate mathematical thinking through written and oral communication.

Course Content: Over the course of the semester, we will cover the following material.

Weeks	Topics	Sections
1 – 3	Limits	2.1 – 2.5, 4.6
4 – 8	Derivatives	3.1 – 3.9
8 - 11	Applications of the Derivative	4.1, 4.3 – 4.9
12 - 15	Integration	4.10, 5.1 – 5.7

See the timeline for more details.

Textbook: [OpenStax Calculus, vol. 1](#). ISBN: 193816802X (print), 1947172131 (digital). The textbook is available for free online, for web view and in PDF format. You may also purchase a print version, if you prefer, from [OpenStax on Amazon.com](#).

Calculator Policy: All quizzes and exams for this course will be written so that they may be taken without the use of a calculator. Although it is not necessary, you may use a four-function or scientific calculator without a computer algebra system (CAS) on quizzes and exams. The use of calculators with CAS, graphing calculators, cell phones, smart watches, or computers on quizzes and exams is prohibited.

Grading Policy

Your course grade will be based on the following assessments:

<i>WebWork</i> Homework	10%
Quizzes	10%
<i>SageMath</i> Labs	10%
Three Midterm Exams	45%
Final Exam	25%

Exams: There will be three midterm exams given throughout the semester. Each of these exams will account for 15% of your course grade. The exact time of the exams will be posted on the timeline. The final exam, accounting for 25% of your course grade, will be cumulative. These exams are “Closed Book” exams; the use of external resources during the exam is prohibited.

The labs, the homework assignments, and the quizzes will each be worth 10% of your course grade. The due dates for these will be posted on the timeline.

Precent	0-59	60-66	67-69	70-76	77-79	80-82	83-86	87-89	90-92	93-100
Grade	F	D	D+	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A

Homework, Labs, and Quizzes

Homework Assignments: Weekly homework will come in two types: practice problems from the textbook and web homework. The two types of assignments will complement each other, and students are expected to complete both. The goal of the web homework is to let you practice the basics and to provide immediate feedback in case you are doing something wrong. However, it will not cover all types of problems that you will need to master – to prepare for the quizzes and the exams you will need to complete both the web homework and the practice problems from the textbook.

For the web homework, we will use *WebWork*, a free web-based homework system. *WebWork* assignments will be assigned once a week, and a typical assignment will have 8 - 12 problems. In most cases, you will have up to 6 attempts to solve a problem correctly. The due dates of *WebWork* assignments (on Tuesdays at 11:59pm) will be posted on the timeline. Please try to resolve any questions you have with a *WebWork* assignment by noon on its due date. Most likely, last-minute questions will not be answered before the assignment closes.

Quizzes: Throughout the course of the semester there will be 11 quizzes; at the end of the semester, your lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Typically, the quizzes will require fluency in material that has been covered during the prior week, but the due date and the precise scope for each quiz will be posted on the timeline. As with the exams, quizzes are “Closed Book”; the use of external resources during the quiz is prohibited.

Labs: There will be 8 computer lab assignments. The labs will use *SageMath*. The due dates of the labs will be posted on the timeline. Once completed, the labs will be submitted through Blackboard.

Getting Help

Calculus 1 is a difficult course. However, there are many resources for you to get help with this course.

Office Hours: I encourage you to come to my office hours, which are Mondays from 2:00pm to 3:00pm, Tuesdays from 9:00am to 10:30am, and Fridays from 11:00am to 12:00pm (or by appointment) in YR 226, with questions you have in the course.

Tutoring: Tutoring help can be found at the [Math Tutoring Center](#), which has both drop-in hours and scheduled appointments for MATH 273. The tutoring center also runs Peer-assisted learning (PAL) sessions, which are weekly drop-in sessions that are led by a peer tutor. During each session, a specific topic is reviewed that is related to current material for MATH 273 and students have the opportunity to ask questions and work on examples/problems together. For more information, please see the [PAL website](#).

Companion Courses: Consider signing up for a MATH 273 companion course, called *MATH 273S - Connections to Calculus I*. This is a one credit course, graded Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory, which is designed to provide timely review of prerequisite material for MATH 273 and to help you develop the study skills and habits necessary for success in a college level math course. For more information, please contact the Mathematics Department at math@towson.edu.

Academic Integrity Policy

Exams and quizzes are to be completed strictly individually using only an appropriate calculator and pen or pencil on paper provided by the instructor. The use of any other resources is prohibited. Students are expected to be familiar with TU's [Student Academic Integrity Policy](#), especially the sections that define plagiarism, cheating and complicity (II.B-II.E) and describe the possible grade penalties (V.C). You may work with other students in the course on the labs and *WebWork* assignments, but each student must submit their own version. The use of generative AI (*e.g.*, *ChatGPT*, *Copilot*, or *Gemini*) on homework assignments and labs is prohibited.

Class Attendance and Absence Policy

Attendance Expectations: Students are expected to attend all classes. Regular attendance helps students understand course material and meet expectations. If you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to get any missed information from your classmates.

Excusable Absences:

- Health absences due to illness or injury when the student is unable to attend class. For repeated illness or long-term injury which prevents course completion, students may be advised to seek a medical withdrawal for that course. For illness-related absences, students are encouraged to contact the Student Outreach and Support office for additional assistance and resources.
- Wellness: Students may take one excused general wellness day to be excused from one class session per course. Students may not use a wellness day during the final exam period.
- Religious observance where the nature of the observance prevents the student from attending class.
- Participation in University activities at the request of university authorities (*e.g.*, intercollegiate athletics, conference/s, dance company, *etc.*).
- Compelling, verifiable circumstances beyond the control of the student.

Students should inform the instructor about absences as early as possible. Documentation may be required for certain types of absences (*e.g.*, participation in university activities), but generally, medical documentation for short-term illnesses is not needed. Please remember that misrepresenting the cause of an absence is a violation of academic integrity.

Any absence of the type not listed above is an unexcused absence. Assessments missed due to an unexcused absence will be given a grade of zero.

Make-Up Work

Late *WebWork* or lab assignments will not be accepted, and no make-up quizzes will be given. Under certain circumstances, these assessments may be exempted, meaning that the grade will simply not be a part of your grade record.

WebWork and Labs: If you have an excused absence that covers the entire duration (from the day it was assigned to the day it was due) of a *WebWork* or lab assignment, you will be exempted from that assessment.

Quizzes: If you have an excused absence for the day of a quiz, you will be exempted from that quiz. You may be exempted from at most four quizzes in this manner. Further missing quizzes will be given a grade of zero. In this case, I encourage you to work with [the Student Outreach and Support Office](#) to determine the best course of action, such as to withdraw from the course.

Exams: If you have an excused absence for the day of an exam, please contact me as soon as possible to arrange for a make-up exam. All make-up exams must be completed within one week of the original test date. Please note that make-up exams will not be the same as the original exam given in class, and may be more difficult.

Course Repeat Policy

Per Towson University's Course Repeat Policy, when a course is repeated, students will receive credit for the course only once. The higher of the two grades earned will be calculated in the GPA. The lower grade will remain on the record with a repeat excluded message. Students may not make a third or subsequent attempt of a course without prior approval of the [Academic Standards Committee](#).

- [Course Repeat Policy in the Undergraduate Catalog](#)

Students with Disabilities Policy

Per Towson University's [Policy for Providing Reasonable Accommodations to Individuals with Disabilities](#), students with disabilities are encouraged to register with [Accessibility and Disability Services](#). Students who suspect that they have a disability but do not have documentation are encouraged to contact ADS for advice on how to obtain appropriate evaluation. A memo from ADS authorizing your accommodation is needed before any accommodation can be provided.

Title IX Policy

Per Towson University's [Policy on Sexual Harassment and Other Sexual Misconduct](#), TU is committed to ensuring a safe, productive learning environment on our campus that does not tolerate sexual misconduct, including harassment, stalking, sexual assault, sexual exploitation,

or intimate partner violence as outlined in the policy. It is important for you to know that there are resources available if you or someone you know needs assistance. You may speak to a member of the university administration, faculty, or staff, but keep in mind that they have an obligation to report the incident to the Title IX Coordinator. If you want to speak to someone who is permitted to keep your disclosure confidential, please seek assistance from the TU Counseling Center.

Reporting Hate Crimes and Bias Incidents

Per Towson University's [Policy and Procedures for the Reporting of Hate Crimes and Bias Incidents](#), TU prohibits all students, staff, and faculty from committing or engaging in any hate crimes as defined under state and federal law, or any acts of bias, hate, or prejudice exhibited in conduct that is in violation of another University policy on campus, on University property, at University sponsored events, or when engaged in University activities and business on or off campus.

The University must receive notice to respond effectively to alleged Hate Crimes or Bias Incidents in the University Community. Please report or file a complaint of a Hate Crime or Bias by:

Reporting to Towson University Police

[Towson University's Police Department](#) will determine if incidents are criminal in nature. In cases of hate crimes, individuals can be punished with fines and/or imprisonment. Felony offenses demonstrated to be motivated by bias are subject to enhanced penalties.

Contacting the Office of Inclusion and Institutional Equity

[The Office of Inclusion and Institutional Equity](#) strives to foster a culture of integrity that values shared responsibility as a critical element of an inclusive, equitable, and diverse community.

Statement on Classroom Climate

Towson University fosters a climate that is grounded in respect for all individuals, enriches the educational experience of students, supports positive classroom and workplace environments, promotes excellence, and cultivates the intellectual and personal growth of the entire university community. Should you feel that you are experiencing a negative classroom environment, please reach out to the Mathematics Department at math@towson.edu.