

## Calculus with Analytic Geometry I/II/III

### What is a recitation?

This course has a mandatory weekly 50 minute recitation, usually taught by a TA (Teaching Assistant). Recitation is where you hand in your written homework for the week. The homework is due at the beginning of the recitation; it should be placed on the table at the front of the room by the time class begins. The TA may give a brief lecture and answer a few questions, and then for most of the session, you will work in groups to solve problems from the recitation workbook. This work is handed in at the end of the session. Frequently, there will be a brief 5-10 minute quiz at the end of the recitation class to help you prepare for the exams.

### Why do we have recitation?

The lectures have a limited time and frequently a large number of students, hence there tends to be more time spent listening than doing. As mathematics requires active problem solving, the best way to accomplish this is with the recitations with smaller numbers of students and very little lecture. The recitation is an opportunity for you to problem solve with other students so that you can benefit from more perspectives. In addition, being able to communicate mathematics is an important tool to determine how well you understand; so discussing problems in small groups builds useful skills.

### Why doesn't the TA spend the entire recitation answering questions?

Having the TA speak the whole time would defeat the primary purpose of the recitation being a problem solving environment. There are many other opportunities to ask homework or even general questions. Your instructor has several office hours every week, your TA holds office hours every week, you can use the Mathematics Community Center (located in WXMLR A303) to get help from other TAs, you can use the email instructor button within WeBWorK to get help on a specific homework question, and/or you can email your instructor or TA. These resources are all available outside recitation where we want you to concentrate on group collaboration.

### You said recitation is mandatory What if I cannot make it?

If you miss recitations, your course grade will suffer; see your syllabus for further information on this aspect.

If you have a conflict for a particular week and it is impossible for you to attend your recitation, then you need to contact your TA (copy your instructor on the email). If possible for you to attend another recitation being held by your TA that week, you may arrange to attend the other recitation that one week; making sure that your homework is turned in on time for your recitation. If your TA does not have another session that week that you can attend, it is possible that another TA who does can allow you to come to their recitation that week; even this arrangement needs to be arranged via your TA (making sure the instructor is copied on all communications regarding this). Do not attempt to attend a different recitation without advance permission, you will not be given credit. This policy is in place in case you get ill or need to attend an ASU sponsored activity. No more than two such exceptions will be allowed.

If you have a frequent conflict, then you registered for the wrong recitation and that is a problem.

### **How is the recitation graded?**

The recitation is meant to be a low stress environment. Your grade for each recitation is based on your adequate preparation and participation in the group work. If you show up for an entire session and make a legitimate effort to contribute within your group, you will get full credit for the recitation. If you goof off, ignore your group, or work on things other than the assigned calculus problems, you will be docked points. If you show up late, you will be counted absent and get no credit. The decision of the TA on participation grading is final.

In addition to a recitation score each week, you may have a quiz. Each quiz is graded on a 10 point basis. Each written homework that you submit is recitation is graded on a 10 point basis. See more information regarding quiz and homework policies in your syllabus.

Overall, the recitation score, quiz scores, and written homework score make 20% of your overall course grade.

### **Do I need to solve all of the problems assigned every week?**

Absolutely not! The problem sets are (usually) designed to make sure that you do not run out of problems to work on. That means that most groups will not complete all of the problems assigned each week before the end of the recitation. If particular problems will be looked at (perhaps even graded), you will be warned in advance so you can be sure to work those first. This does not mean that you stop working once you have those solved or your recitation grade will suffer.

Frequently, each group is given a different primary problem or two that the group will present to the rest of the class. These are the first problems the group works on, once they have solved those, they can choose (as a group) which one to work on next.

### **I would prefer it if the recitation was not graded at all.**

I have done this course with and without recitations. The average student gets over 90% in the recitation portion of their grade. Without the recitation grades, at least 15% more of your grade would be determined by exams. This means, that in the vast majority of cases, having a graded recitation will increase your overall average in the course giving you a better chance of passing. In other words, a graded recitation is much more likely to help you than to hurt you.

### **I have more questions.**

You should certainly ask your TA and or instructor if you have questions that have not been addressed here, just as you should do with any question about calculus.