

# Exam information for Calculus I, Spring 2009

## Date and Time

The final exam is Friday, May 8, from 2:00–3:50pm.

## Room Locations

Please report to the following rooms to take the exam:

Section	Days	Times	Instructor	Location
001	MW	8:55am–10:45am	Niang Jiang	19W4 101/102 <sup>1</sup>
003	MW	8:55am–10:45am	Juliana Dias	
004	TR	11:00am–12:50pm	Matthew Leingang	
005	TR	11:00am–12:50pm	Zeng Lian	SILV 703
006	TR	11:00am–12:50pm	Jungho Lee	
007	TR	2:00pm–3:50pm	David Cai	
008	TR	2:00pm–3:50pm	Dongzhou Zhou	CANT 101
009	TR	2:00pm–3:50pm	Van Molino	
010	MW	11:00am–12:15pm	Matthew Leingang	CANT 200
015	TR	6:20pm–8:10pm	Michael Damron	

Building keys:

**19W4** 19 W. 4th St.

**SILV** Silver Center

**CANT** Cantor Film Center, 36 E. 8th St.

## Review and Studying

Here are some things to help your studying.

### Practice Exams

Five exams with solutions are posted on the Calculus I Common Blackboard site. They will be most beneficial if you take the exams under exam conditions then check against the solutions.

<sup>1</sup> Go to 101 until it is full, then to 102.

## Other Review Materials

Carina Curto will be giving two review sessions (time and place TBD, mostly likely May 5 and 6) and will generate a review document.

Solutions to the Chapter Review problems for Chapters 1-5 are on the common blackboard, too.

## FAQ

Q: Where is the exam?

A: See above.

Q: What sections are represented on the test? Are more recent sections represented more?

A: The exam is cumulative so all sections except those explicitly excluded are fair game. More recent material is *slightly* more represented.

Q: What format will the test take?

A: Mostly free-response, but there could also be some multiple-choice, matching, or true/false questions.

Q: Will calculators be allowed?

A: No. The problems are constructed to be doable without a calculator.

Q: Will we be allowed a formula sheet?

A: No. If there is a formula we think you need and we're not trying to test you on that formula (for instance, the volume of a cylinder), we will give it to you.

Q: How well do I need to do on the final to get (some grade)?

A: The way we compute your course score is on the syllabus. If you don't know things like your homework average you can estimate them. The cutoffs for how these scores are converted to letter grades is also on the syllabus, although they may be lowered in order to produce more of the higher letter grades. So you have pretty much all the information you need to answer this question yourself.

However, no matter what score you need, your letter grade will be maximized by doing the best possible job on the final you can. So concentrate on studying for the final rather than the possible implications of possible scores on the final.

Q: Can I take the final some other time?

A: We can accommodate certain academic conflicts and emergencies only. In case of academic conflict, talk your instructor about taking an alternate final. In case of emergency, have your academic advisor contact Prof. Leingang

Q: How should we study?

A: Good question!

Exams in college-level math courses are different from those in high school courses, even Advanced Placement courses. One of our course goals is a *deeper* understanding of the concepts of calculus, and that means going beyond template problems that have been modeled for you in class.

There will be problems on the exam that will resemble those on the homework. But some problems will be brand new. That's intentional, and it's not your instructor's fault for not showing you how to do those problems. In life you'll be expected to solve new problems that nobody's solved before, and even though those problems may not necessarily involve calculus, problem solving is a skill you can develop in this course.

So the strategy of guessing which problems will be on the exam and practicing those won't completely work. How do you prepare for problems you won't know in advance? *Do as many problems as you can find.* Pick a topic from class or a section from the book. The practice problems from the homework page are a good place to start. Keep going; the answers to all the odd problems are in the back of the book. There are also lots of other calculus books in Bobst Library; look through them if you're in need of more problems.

Don't just practice the problems which look easy or obvious. Not every problem is going to be solved in 15 minutes. Some will take some thinking. You will get the most benefit by starting with

easy problems and working up to harder problems. Don't forget that calculators will not be allowed on exams, so make sure you practice at least some of the time without using it.

*Metacognition* or "thinking about thinking" is an important study skill. After you solve a problem, think about it: what was hard about the problem? When did you realize you had solved it? If you changed the problem slightly, how would the solution change? What connection did you make that you could use for other problems?

*You will know that you really know a topic when you can do the problems correctly, the first time, without peeking at the solutions.*

Consider reading the book. This doesn't mean scanning the page, absorbing only the boxed information. Read the prose--the author wrote it for a reason!

When taking practice or old exams, try to recreate exam conditions. Take them in a quiet location, without books or notes or calculators, and within the scheduled time. Do the whole exam, then check against the solutions.