

# Guidelines for All Graded Homework

## MATH 131: Calculus II

**Goal.** Homework is assigned in such a way that you are exposed to the material in several different ways and over time. Multiple approaches and exposures give your mind the ability to process and understand the material more deeply and identify where your questions are so that we can address them while we are still working directly with the material. This means that you will often be engaging with the material from several sections at once.

**Reading Assignments: Advanced Preparation.** Hand these assignments in at the beginning of class the day they are due (one class period before our lecture and class discussion on the reading). Reading Assignments all have four parts as listed below. **To obtain full credit:**

- Do your assignment on the handout provided.
- Put your name in the space provided on the first page.
- Staple your pages together if you have more than one.
- Make your work legible and neat.
- Use full sentences when responding to questions unless otherwise noted.

**It is recommended that you use pencil for these assignments.** A Reading Assignment is a reflection of your understanding of the text and it is not expected that you completely understand all the material in the section when you have completed the reading assignment. Thus it is not expected that you consult outside resources or spend copious amounts of time on these, though you should spend a decent amount of focused time reading and responding to questions. One to one and a half hours should be about the right amount of time for each Reading Assignment. Below are the four parts you must complete for each reading assignment:

- 1) Response: After reading the assigned material **at least once**, write clear responses to the section-specific questions about the reading with full sentences. These questions will vary with each assignment and will be given on the handout for the reading assignment. Often one to two well-worded, complete sentences is sufficient to respond to each section-specific question. You may also be asked to draw diagrams. You should be sure to read the entire section before starting to answer the questions. If you are asked for a definition or theorem, be sure to write the entire statement. Mathematics is very precise and each word is important.
- 2) Questions/Exercise: Write down **at least two** of your own **questions** about this reading. These questions could be about a specific example in the text that is unclear to you, or why a certain hypothesis is included in the statement of a theorem, or more general questions about what something means, etc. These questions may also involve new or old concepts that are confusing to you, and connections between this reading and

other ideas. This is your opportunity to guide the discussion of the material to the areas that confuse you and help to further your understanding; be as explicit as possible with your questions. If you believe you fully understand the material, that is, you have **no** questions, there will be an exercise that you can solve instead. In order to receive credit for this solution, you must show all steps. **Writing that you have no questions on the material will not earn you full credit on the reading assignment!**

3) Reflection: Write **two or three sentences** reflecting on the progress of your recent work in the course. You do not need to spend long on this: probably only a few minutes. Write about how things went with any assignment or reading done for class. This may include what was well explained and interesting, what was confusing, and what you had to reread or rework but eventually understood. This should reflect both your personal feelings about how the course is going and your interaction with the material.

4) Time: Write how much time you worked on this Reading Assignment. This is the one part of the reading assignment that does not need to be written in full sentences! Remember that this assignment should take roughly an hour to an hour and a half, but it will vary from student to student. If you are taking significantly more or less time than this estimate, reevaluate your work strategies or come discuss it with me.

**WeBWorK Exercises: Warm-Up.** These are due before each class and are completed online. WeBWorK exercises will be based on the material covered in the Reading Assignment and discussed during the lecture in class. These exercises will mostly be testing to see if you have a basic understanding of the new concepts and techniques we have discussed. You do not have to complete an entire set in one session. Every time you submit a correct answer, the system will record your success and you will see 100% listed as your score on that problem, even if you log out and log back in later. Some problems have multiple parts and will issue partial credit for some right answers. For example, if a problem requires 4 answers and you answer 3 of them correctly, your score for that problem will be displayed as 75%. Most problems, however, do not give partial credit. Do remember to “submit” your answers, not just “check” them. For most problems, you will be allowed thirteen attempts to obtain the correct answer. However, be sure that you are not just guessing. You may work with others on these problems, but note that WeBWorK generates different numbers in a problem for each student. Refer to the WeBWorK Instructions and FAQs and the WeBWorK Syntax and List of Functions websites (accessible from our class home page) for more details.

**Main Exercises: Solidifying Understanding.** These will be assigned once a week and will normally be due at the beginning of class each Wednesday. The material on these assignments will be material for which we have completed Reading and WeBWorK assignments, as well as on which we have had class discussion and lab work. Thus these will normally be more challenging questions. **To obtain full credit:**

- Do your assignment on the handout provided.
- Put your name in the space provided on the first page.
- Staple your pages together if you have more than one.
- Make your work legible and neat, and follow the directions carefully.

**It is recommended that you use pencil.** Most of your work on these should be your individual work. You are encouraged to see me during office hours if you have questions. I am happy to help you. You may also discuss the main ideas of the exercises with your classmates and the Math Intern. Then go home and write up your final solutions **completely by yourself**, without comparing with other people. The paper you hand in should be entirely your own writing, not the same as anyone else's. **Write how much time you worked on these exercises and with whom you discussed them before starting your final write-up in the spaces provided on the handout.** A bonus point can be earned for each assignment that follows the neatness and mathematical grammar guidelines. The requirements for neat work include completing the assignment on the handout, stapling if more than one page, no work crossed out, and neat writing. The mathematical grammar guidelines will be elaborated upon as the semester progresses, and include items such as the proper use of equal and integration signs.

## **Evaluation**

The Reading Assignments will be graded with a plus, check or minus. If your work is turned in on time and is completed, you will earn a plus. If it is partly complete, it will earn a check. And if it is largely incomplete, it will receive a minus. Completed not only means that each question is addressed, but also that directions are followed and complete sentences are used. Each Reading Assignment contributes up to 8 points towards your homework grade: a plus is 8 points, a check is 6 points, and a minus is 4 points. Be sure to answer all parts of all questions! Reading assignments are due by the start of class on their due date. There will be a 10% penalty for each 24 hour period an assignment is late after the due date and time up to four days. Anything turned in four or more days late will have a 50% penalty. Be sure to turn in everything!

Each WeBWorK problem will be worth roughly one point. If a problem has several parts or is particularly challenging it may be worth more.

Each Main Exercises assignment will be worth 20 points. These should be top quality work and very well presented. Assignments are due by the beginning of class on Wednesdays. Assignments turned in after the time class begins will be considered late. You may have two free lates and turn in two Main Exercises assignments up to roughly 48 hours late (due by 11:30am in my office on Friday) no questions asked. Use these wisely! Beyond your two free lates, there will be a 10% penalty for each 24 hour period an assignment is late after the due date and time up to four days. Anything turned in four or more days late will have a 50% penalty. Be sure to turn in everything! Work will receive at least partial credit up until the time I return assignments to the class. Once I have returned Main Exercises assignments to class, no credit can be earned, but work will be reviewed.