

**MATH 286 – Honors Differential Equations**  
*Winter 2008*

Homework

This is a guideline on your homework assignment that I wish to share with you in my formal capacity of your grader.

Please write *legibly*. The use of a word processor is encouraged, but not required. A very useful word processor for formatting mathematical manuscripts is L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X. You can easily download it from the Internet. You may want to use the Google search engine to locate such a site. Doing your homework with this processor is a good opportunity to familiarize yourself with L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X.

It is crucial for you to explain your solutions using *complete* English sentences. While mathematical correctness is the ultimate goal, the clarity and exposition of your solutions will also be assessed. In order to earn full credit on a problem, the exposition must be clear and cogent. All answers should be justified by a sound argument. I am not a clairvoyant, nor do I read your minds. An answer that lacks thereof will receive no credit. It would be certainly helpful if you could box or circle your final answers.

Should you use paper from a notebook, the torn edges should be *smooth*. Homework with ruffled edges will not be accepted. Furthermore, homework must be *stapled*. Points will be taken off for sloppiness at the grader's discretion.

Furthermore, please leave a one-inch left margin on each page for grading purposes. Number your problems and present them in an orderly manner. Should you have your Question 3 answered on the last page, for example, please make a little note between Question 2 and Question 4. This will ensure that no problems are left ungraded.

One of the primary goals in upper level mathematics courses is to understand the structure and conventions of written mathematical arguments. This goal can be accomplished by presenting your solutions clearly and correctly. Terminology must be learned and used correctly. Focusing on these aspects not only prepare you for more advanced courses but also enhances your understanding of the underlying concepts.