SYLLABUS FOR MATH 2924, SPRING 2010  
MWF 12:30-1:20 PM, PHSC 321

Instructor: Tomasz Przebinda  
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Office hours: Friday 2:30-3:20.

Graduate Assistant: Catherine Hall (Catherine.A.Hall-1@ou.edu; 822 PHSC).  
You are required to enroll in the Discussion Section for this class. Your discussion section  
instructor will collect your homework, grade it and return it to you. Moreover you’ll have  
unannounced quizzes during the discussion section. There will be a total of 12 quizzes,  
the two lowest quiz scores will be dropped. No makeup quizzes will be given.

Math Help Center: The Department of Mathematics maintains a help center staffed  
by graduate teaching assistants to provide students with extra help. The help center is  
located on the 4th floor of the Physical Sciences Center, PHSC, room 425A, right next to  
the Mathematics Department’s Office.


Course description: We are going to cover most of the material contained in chapters 6, 7, 8, 9.1, 11 1nd 12 of the text.

Lectures: You are expected to attend all lectures, and are responsible for all information  
given out during them. In particular, this includes any changes of test dates, grading  
policies, or homework assignments. I am not going to check the attendance.

Use of calculators and technology: We shall not use any calculators or computers  
of any kind during the exams. On the other hand you are encouraged to use whatever  
software you like while you do your homework and study the material. The class  
is intended to teach you material which shall not become obsolete within a decade or so  
(when did I. Newton write his last paper?), while the calculators and current software will.

Testing: There will be three midterm exams during the class period (50 minutes each)  
on Wednesday February 17, Wednesday March 31 and Wednesday April 28. The final  
exam is scheduled for Wednesday May 12, 2010, 1:30–3:30 (in the same room). University  
regulations require that you take the final exam at this time. Do not arrange travel plans  
that prevent you from attending the final exam.
If a midterm exam is missed for any reason, its weight (16%) will automatically be added to the weight of the final exam. (For example if you miss exactly one midterm the final will count for 29%+16%=45% of the final grade.) Under extraordinary circumstances, if you cannot take a test at the scheduled time, you should contact me in advance of the test time and I will decide whether or not to allow a makeup exam.

**Homework:** There will be weekly assignments, posted on learn.ou.edu, to be handed in during the first discussion session of the week. Please hand in your homework on time; late assignments cannot be accepted.

**Final grade:** the final grade is the better of the following two options:
(a) final exam 29% + first midterm 16% + second midterm 16% + third midterm 16% + homework 8% + quizzes 15%
(b) final exam 100%

**Academic Misconduct:** Cases of academic misconduct are inexcusable, will be reported to the dean, and will be punished under University regulations. Don’t do it. For details on the University policies concerning academic misconduct consult www.ou.edu/provost/integrity

**Students with Disabilities:** Any student having a disability that may interfere with the demonstration of his or her abilities should contact me as soon as possible to arrange accommodations necessary to ensure full participation in the course. Students with disabilities must be registered with the Office of the Disabilities Services (Goddard Health Center, Suite 166, tel: 325-3852) prior to receiving accommodations in this course.

**Some important dates:**
First day of classes: Tuesday, January 19, 2010.
Last day to withdraw with an automatic W: Friday, February 26, 2010.
Last day to withdraw with a W/F without petition to the Dean: Friday, April 2, 2010.
Final exam preparation period: May 3–7, 2010 (see the Provost’s annual memo on University policies regarding instruction for the various restrictions on graded course work during this period).
Last day of classes: Friday, May 7, 2010.

**Grade of Incomplete:** The grade of “I” is a special-purpose grade given when a specific task needs to be completed to finish the coursework. This is typically a term paper or other special assignment, so rarely makes sense in a mathematics course. An “I” cannot be given to avoid a low grade in cases where the coursework is not strong. The Mathematics Department requires that instructor and students execute and sign a written INCOMPLETE CONTRACT before the grade ‘I’ can be given.
Advice: It is important to think about the subject daily or almost daily (you will learn much more in two hours a day for seven days than in seven hours a day for two days). Working problems is your most important learning technique. Work sessions with fellow students can be very productive, as long as one avoids the pitfall of becoming dependent on others. Experience has shown the importance of keeping completely caught up; cramming is even less effective in mathematics than in other courses.