

Important Information for Mathematics(bio)124

Please read these pages. Hopefully they will answer most of your questions.

SUNLearn

Go to learn.sun.ac.za and log in. Then find the page for Mathematics(bio)124. When I refer to SUNLearn, this is what I mean. A lot of useful things will be posted there during the course of the semester.

Module convenor

Dr Gareth Boxall is the convenor of this module. Feel free to email him on gboxall@sun.ac.za if you have any questions.

Textbook

The textbook for this module is *An Introduction to Applied Calculus for Social and Life Sciences* (Revised 1st Edition with Solutions) by F. Nyabadza and L. Wessels.

This book was designed for this module. We follow it very closely and you really do need to have a copy of it. We used the same book in 2018. In 2017 we used an earlier version of it.

Lectures and Tutorials

You are divided into three groups: Group 1, Group 2 and Group 3. Groups 1 and 2 divide further into 1A, 1E, 2A and 2E. The A means you have your lectures in Afrikaans while the E means you have them in English. Group 3 has lectures in English. The timetable, venue and lecturer information for these lecture groups is given in the lecture programme (which is available on SUNLearn).

In addition to lectures, you have a double period tutorial each week. For Group 1 this is in 8th and 9th periods on Wednesdays, for Group 2 it is in 4th and 5th periods on Tuesdays and for Group 3 it is in 8th and 9th periods on Mondays.

For the tutorials the lecture groups divide into smaller groups, each with its own venue. Lists will be posted on SUNLearn during Week 1 to tell you which tutorial group you are in and what venue you need to go to. Tutorials start in Week 2.

If, after checking the lists on SUNLearn, you find you are not assigned to a tutorial group or you cannot attend a tutorial at the time to which you have been assigned, you must email the module convenor (gboxall@sun.ac.za) immediately so that the problem can be solved in time for you to attend a tutorial in Week 2.

Tutorials are compulsory and in most of them there will be a short (25 minutes) multiple choice test. This is written in your tutorial venue in the second half of the second period of your tutorial session. The marks from these tests count towards your final mark.

Students who are repeating this module will be assigned to a special tutorial group which will operate slightly differently from the regular tutorial groups. Students in a repeaters group will be expected to complete the tutorial exercises ahead of time and show their solutions to the tutors at the start of the tutorial session. The tutorial exercises will usually be made available on SUNLearn on the Wednesday of the previous week.

After the early assessment test has been written and marked, repeating students who are doing especially well will be given the opportunity to move to a regular tutorial group, while other students who are struggling may be invited to join a repeaters group so that they can receive more focused support.

Tests and class mark

In addition to the short tutorial tests we also have the Early Assessment Test and the Class Test. The Early Assessment Test is 50 minutes long and is written during your tutorial session on 11, 12 or 13 March (in Week 6). The Class Test is two hours long and is written on 15 April.

Your class mark is obtained from three contributing marks: **T**, **A** and **C**. The first mark **T** is an average of your tutorial test marks (not including the early assessment test), converted to a mark out of 100. **A** is your Early Assessment Test mark, converted to a mark out of 100. **C** is your Class Test mark, converted to a mark out of 100. Your class mark **M** is then given by the formula $M = (3T/10) + 7[(A/30) + (2C/30)]$.

If your class mark **M** is at least 40 then you qualify to write the exam. If it is below 40 then you do not qualify to write the exam.

Absence from tutorials or tests

If you need to miss a tutorial or a test during the course of the semester and you have a valid excuse and appropriate documentary evidence, such as a medical certificate, then you must email the module convenor (gboxall@sun.ac.za) as soon as possible to request that you be excused. If you are excused from a tutorial test or the early assessment test in this way then your mark for that test will be calculated from your other marks (assuming you have not missed too much already). If you are excused from the class test then you will have to write the "sick test" instead. This will take place soon after the class test.

Exam and final mark

There are two exams for this module, written in the mid-year exam period: the first opportunity exam and the second opportunity exam. If your class mark **M** is at least 40, then you can choose which opportunity exam you would like to write. A good reason to choose the first opportunity exam is that if you do not do well enough in it to pass the module then, provided certain conditions are met, you may be allowed to write the second opportunity exam as a further attempt to pass the module.

To pass the module you need a final mark **F** of at least 50 (out of 100). The full set of rules for calculating **F** is quite long and complicated, but here are two simple facts. If your class mark **M** is at least 50 and your exam mark **E** is also at least 50 (out of 100) then your final mark is $F = (4M/10) + (6E/10)$. If you qualify to write the exam and then obtain an exam mark **E** of at least 50 (out of 100) then you automatically pass the module.

Calculators

No calculators may be used in any of the tests or exams for Mathematics(bio)124.