

Using WeBWork for Homework in Math 331

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Homework in this course will be completed using the WeBWork system. This system gives immediate feedback and has a number of other useful features. Before classes begin on Wednesday, September 7, it would be a good idea to familiarize yourself with this system. Here are some introductory instructions. Please email me at rsellis@math.umass.edu if you are not able to log in using the procedure in item 2 below or if anything in this document is confusing or incorrect.

1. I suggest that you start by going to the main page of WeBWork < http://webwork.maa.org/wiki/Main_Page#.V8Sd4Hr-nFk>. In the left column go to documentation for Students < http://webwork.maa.org/wiki/Student_Information#.V8SeL3r-nFk>. Please read through the material on both of these pages, which explain a number of features of WeBWork.
2. Homework will be assigned on WeBWork at the URL http://webwork2.math.umass.edu/webwork2/F16_MATH_331_1/.
3. In order to log in, enter the following:
Username: your username for SPIRE
Password: Your 8-digit UMass SPIRE ID number
If you check **Remember Me**, then the browser will remember your login information, allowing you to visit WeBWork without typing your username and password (until your session expires). This feature is not safe for public workstations, untrusted machines, and machines over which you do not have direct control.
4. After you log in, you can change your password by clicking on **Password/Email** in the **MAIN MENU** in the left column and following the instructions. Your username cannot be changed. If you enter a new password, then click on the **Change User Options** button to save your changes.
5. After you log in, click on **Homework Sets** in the **MAIN MENU** to see the list of homework sets that are being assigned. For each homework set there is a date and time indicating when it will open (i.e., becomes available for you to work on it) and, for those homework sets that are open, another date and time indicating when the homework is due. I will make the answers available after everyone in the class completes the homework.
6. Please work through each problem and insert the answer or answers requested. Clicking on **Preview Answers** will show you how WeBWork interprets your answers. Pressing this key does not submit your solution to be graded. In order to submit your solution to be graded, click on **Submit Answers**. WeBWork will then tell you whether you are correct. In all of the homework sets you can try to answer the problems as many times as you like except for problems where WeBWork limits the number of attempts. WeBWork will grade your solutions and record all your scores, which can be accessed via the **Grades** link in the **MAIN MENU**. Everyone in the class is assigned a problem of the same type; however, WeBWork assigns different problem parameters to each student.

7. The introductory homework set titled **HowToUseWebwork** is now available. Its purpose is to familiarize you further with this system. This homework set will not count toward your grade. It is important that you go through this homework in order to understand how WeBWork operates.
8. The first homework set, **Homework Set 1**, is also available now. It is a review of calculus and, like all future homework sets, it will count toward your grade. Homework Set 1 is due by 11:00 AM on Monday, September 12.
9. The second homework, **Homework Set 2**, will be available on the first day of class, Wednesday, September 7. It will be due by 11:00 AM on Friday, September 16. The topic of Homework Set 2 is first-order, linear ordinary differential equations, which is covered in section 1.5 of the textbook, *Advanced Engineering Mathematics* by Erwin Kreyszig.
10. It is recommended that you print out a copy of each homework set, work out the problems on paper, and then enter the answers in WeBWork. Keeping a copy of worked out solutions in your notebook will be helpful when you study for exams. Here is the procedure for downloading a copy of a homework set. First go to **Homework Sets** in the **MAIN MENU**. Then select the homework set that you want to download. Finally click on **Download a hardcopy of this homework set**, which you will see at the top of the page. Clicking on this link generates a PDF file.
11. Please try to complete each homework set by the indicated due date and time. I will give an extension only in special circumstances, which include medical issues. The lowest homework score will be dropped from the final grade.
12. By clicking on **Email instructor** you can ask me a question about a particular problem on a homework set. Please take advantage of this option if you are stuck, but please use it sparingly. The **Email instructor** link can be found at the bottom of the page showing each homework set and at the bottom of the page showing each problem.