COURSE DESCRIPTION

CALCULUS I

MA 125–CW, 51928

SPRING 2019

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM

Course Instructor: Professor Alexander M. Blokh
Office: CH 494A
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E-mail: ablokh@math.uab.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday 9–10 AM (or by appointment)

Meeting times: MTWTR, 11:15–12:05 AM
Meeting location: HHB 124
Prerequisite: Grade of C or better in MA 106, MA 107 or equivalent. Any student who has not fulfilled the prerequisite will be dropped from the class.
Credits: 4 semester hours
Textbook: Knewton Alta. Single Variable Calculus, Early Transcendentals ISBN # 978-1-63545-100-9, chapters 1 - 5. As this is pilot, the access to the textbook is free.

First day of classes: January 7, 2019
Last day to drop without paying full tuition: January 14, 2019
MLK Holiday: January 21, 2019
Last day to withdraw with a “W”: March 21, 2019
Spring Break: March 11–17, 2019
Last day of class: April 19, 2019

Test I: near January 17; Chapter 1;
Test II: near February 6; Chapter 2;
Test III: near March 4; Chapter 3;
Test IV: near March 25; Chapter 4;
Test V: near April 18; Chapter 5.

(These dates are approximate and may be slightly shifted due to unforeseen circumstances.)

Final exam: Wednesday, April 24, 2019, 1:30–4 PM (Location to be announced.)

NOTE DATE AND TIME OF FINAL EXAM!!

Date: December 14, 2018.
Course policies:

- Please make sure that you are able to receive e-mail through your Blazer-ID account. Official course announcements may be sent to that address.
- If you are contacted by the Early Alert Program, you should consider taking advantage of the services it offers. Various services to assist you are also listed in the Student Resources section of the Blazernet web site.
- If you wish to request a disability accommodation please contact DSS at 934-4205 or at dss@uab.edu.
- If a test is missed due to a serious verifiable circumstance or official university business, the test grade will be replaced with the final exam score. If you miss the final exam you will receive a zero score for this exam. In all cases you must contact your instructor of such circumstances before the exam takes place.
- Calculators (without internet access) will be allowed during any of the tests. In addition, students can bring one quick reference card to tests, including the final exam (i.e., a standard size $5'' \times 8''$-index card; both sides can be used).

This is a pilot class based upon a new online textbook listed above; students enrolled in this class will have FREE ACCESS to the textbook.

_The men who try to do something and fail are infinitely better than those who try to do nothing and succeed._ - Martin Lloyd Jones

- What is Knewton alta? Alta is Knewton fully integrated adaptive learning courseware.
  
  It is designed to work the way you learn by completing assignments. All of your course material (including text instruction like what you might find in a book) plus videos, animations and worked examples, are presented to you in alta at the moment you need it. Once you begin an assignment, alta recognizes pretty quickly what you know or do not know and will adapt the assignment dynamically to your specific learning level.

  When alta identifies a knowledge gap from your past, it will give you instructional support and a few extra questions until you have shown that you understand the concept, and can demonstrate proficiency by completing the assignment. Because alta is adapting to your personal
learning, some of you will complete the assignment quickly, and some of you may take longer. (You will see this in your progress bar.)

Guessing is highly discouraged. Guessing will only mess with alta’s ability to recommend the right content for you and could create a longer assignment experience.

• **How will I use Knewton alta?**
  I will use alta to assign homework and tests. I will be able to track your progress and offer additional help if you need it during the course of the semester. Your alta homework assignments will make up 20% of your overall grade.

• **How will you learn with Knewton alta?**
  The way you work in alta may be different than what you are used to. Answering a question correctly or incorrectly is okay, as long as you respond thoughtfully. Answering thoughtfully, even if you are incorrect, is how the technology in alta will develop a quick understanding of what you know and do not know so that it can help you move successfully through completing the assignment. Whether you answer correctly or incorrectly determines what you learn next. You can follow the progress bar in alta while you are completing the assignment to follow your progress towards assignment completion; moreover, you will get an explanation and words of encouragement along the way.

  Your completion of an assignment will likely be different from your peers, but you are still starting the same assignment, and ultimately learning the same concepts as everyone else in the class. It might seem confusing if there are times you answer more questions or take longer to complete an assignment than a friend (or vice versa). This is because alta is delivering a unique path to learning for each of you that is entirely personalized and designed to help you learn so that you can succeed on quizzes, tests and in this class!

• **Every answer counts!**
  – Do your best to answer questions correctly, in the format that is required.
  – Guessing to move past a question can actually make your assignment take longer! Instead, click “More Instruction.” This will not
hurt your progress you will get extra help with instructions and review questions to help you move forward.
– Do not skip ahead! Read assignment instructions and watch the videos as they appear. Skipping instructional materials will not change your grade, but you can miss important information.

• **Working ahead**
  You are strongly encouraged to look through the sections of your course ahead of time. You can solve some problems, or just read the instructions. This will help you better understand the material covered in class. Your course will be made available to you on January 2, 2019, so you can begin even before the semester starts on January 7, 2019.

• **How to access Knewton alta**
  Enter this Course Link into a web browser: https://knerd.me/26sn9x and click Create Account. Enter your name, your school email address and password. Then click “Purchase” and enter the following access code (all capitals!): DJJG-VHVT-YFMK. Review the assignment learning objectives, average number of questions, and due date. Click Start to begin working.

• **How to Get Help For Technical Problems**
  Use the “Chat” button in bottom corner of any Knewton alta page to troubleshoot with our 24/7 Client Services team, or search our support site.

• **For Content Questions**
  Click the “Content Feedback” button next to any piece of content to ask a question or report an issue. This ensures that the report goes directly to Knewton content team to be evaluated.

• **For Academic Support**
  If you are stuck, click “More Instruction” to complete review that DOES NOT impact your progress. If you need additional help, you should reach out directly to your instructor.

• In order to learn useful tips concerning Knewton please go to
  https://support.knewton.com/faq-library/student-faqs/knerd-tips-for-students

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**Assessment procedures:**
Student achievement will be assessed by the following measures:

- **Regular online homework integrated into Knewton alta**
  In general, online homework will be due two weeks after a topic is covered in class. Homework counts for 20% of the course average.

- **Five in class tests.** Each test contributes 10% to the course average. The lowest test score will be replaced by the score on the final exam (provided the score on the final exam is higher).

- **A 150-minute comprehensive final examination** including short questions (Part I) as well as problems requiring in depth understanding (including word-problems). Partial credit is awarded where appropriate. The final contributes 30% to the course average.

- Your course performance is your course average (including the final exam score). This is a number between 0 and 100.

- Your final grade is determined according to the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course performance:</th>
<th>88-100</th>
<th>75-87</th>
<th>62-74</th>
<th>50-61</th>
<th>below 50</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Final Grade:</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- In addition your grade maybe raised by a strong performance on the final exam (normally at most one letter grade).

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**Tips:**

- Past tests are available at [www.math.uab.edu](http://www.math.uab.edu) under Student Resources/Calculus Testbank.

- Help is available in the Math Learning Lab (HHB 202); M–Th 9–8, F 9–5.

- By working steadily and regularly, you will increase your chances to succeed in this course.

- Remember, being a full-time student is a full-time job.