

Vanderbilt University, Department of Mathematics, Spring 07  
**Math 226 / CS 255 – Introduction to Numerical Mathematics**  
Time: MWF 10:10-11:00, Room: SC 1432

**Instructor:** Simon Foucart, SC 1533, [simon.foucart@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:simon.foucart@vanderbilt.edu)

**Office hours:** T 2:00-3:00, W 11:00-12:00 & 1:00-2:00, or by appointment.

**Course web page:** [www.math.vanderbilt.edu/~foucart/teaching](http://www.math.vanderbilt.edu/~foucart/teaching)

**Text:** *Numerical Analysis*, Burden and Faires, 8th edition.

**Prerequisite:** linear algebra; computer programming [some familiarity with high level systems such as *Maple*, *Mathematica*, or *Maple* is enough].

**Grading:** Grades will be determined by the final comprehensive examination (25%), two in-class tests (40%), one take-home test (20%), and homeworks (15%). The usual ten-point scale (F: 0–59, D: 60–69, C: 70–79, B: 80–89, A: 90-100) will be used. Grades are based on the work shown, not on what was intended or implied. Excessively sloppy, poorly justified and disorganized work, even though displaying the correct answer, cannot be given full credit.

**Attendance policy:** Attendance will not be taken. Ultimately, the grade depends on how much was learned and not on how regularly classes were attended. However, these two are closely related, especially since I may add in class topics which do not appear in the textbook. Besides, students are responsible for any announcement made and for the material covered during the classes they missed. Office hours will not be used to go over this material again.

**Homework assignments:** Among the day-to-day assignments, five sets of homework will be collected and graded, possibly without prior warning. No late work will be accepted (unless a collection that was not planned and an *excused* – as defined by the University catalog – absence occur on the same day). Homeworks, which will be divided into compulsory exercises

and more challenging questions, are an integral part of the course. Thus, the various tests may include some notions introduced in the exercises. The optional questions, of course, will neither be graded nor are they examinable. I will gladly provide some help on particular problems during my office hours, provided that a genuine attempt at their solutions has been made.

**Make-up policy:** As a rule, students are required to take all scheduled tests. Make-up tests will only be given in exceptional circumstances – *excused* absence as defined by the University catalog. In such cases, the student must provide a reason for his/her absence and must normally notify me in advance. The final examination will be given on Tuesday, May 1 from 3:00pm to 5:00pm. No alternative final examination is scheduled.

**Accommodation procedure:** If a student needs course accommodations due to a disability, special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, or has emergency medical information that needs to be shared with me, I should be contacted as soon as possible. The Opportunity Development Center (2-4705) provides services for students with disabilities. Specific accommodations can be made for students with either physical disabilities or learning disabilities. Upon receiving appropriate documentation from the student, the Opportunity Development Center will make arrangements with me for the accommodations.

**Important dates:**

Jan 17: last day to drop or add

Feb 12: first in-class test

Feb 28: take-home tests are due

Mar 3-1: spring break

Mar 16: last day to withdraw

Mar 30: second in-class test

Apr 24: last day of class

May 1, 3:00-5:00: final examination

**Academic honesty:** Vanderbilt's Honor Code governs all work in this course. In particular, students shall prepare their homework assignments on their own, although they are not forbidden to *discuss* them.