Welcome to the fascinating world of differential equations!

**Instructor information:** Sunil Chebolu, Office: Stevenson 303B, email: schebol@ilstu.edu, Phone: 309 438-3893.

**Class time and place:**
- MWF, STV 228 10:00 - 10:50 AM

**Webpage:** http://www.math.iastate.edu/schebol/teaching/340-09.html I will post announcements, homework problems etc. on this homepage. So make sure you check this page regularly. I may also send emails to the class when there is an important announcement.

**Textbook:** Differential equations – An introduction to modern methods and applications by James R. Brannan & William E. Boyce

**Office hours:** MW 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM in my office STV 303B. You can also make an appointment.

**Course content:** The goal is to cover the chapters (2-5) of the book with some additions and deletions which will announced in class. Some background in Calculus and Linear algebra will be assumed. If time permits we will explore some applications of differential equations, particularly in physics.

**Class tests:** There will be 3 class tests during the semester, one each in the months of September, October, and November. The lowest of your class test grades will be dropped. Please note that there are no make-up exams in this class. In particular, if you are unable to take a class test on the scheduled date for whatever reason, there will be no make-up for it, you will receive a grade of zero for that test and it will be dropped as the lowest one. Precise details on the dates, location, and the format of the class tests will be announced later in the class. There will be a final which will be cumulative. Here are the dates for the final exam.

**Homework:** There will be homework assigned on a weekly basis. I will not collect homework! However, it is your duty to do all the problems assigned in the homework. There will be a good correlation between the homework and the class tests. In fact, I will pick some problems for exams verbatim (cut and paste) from the homework. Also, please do not expect to learn
the subject without doing homework. After all, mathematics can be learned only by doing it. So please make sure you put good effort in doing the homework.

**Grading:** The final grade will be a weighted average of the class participation credit, class tests, and the final. Here are the weights:

1. Class participation – 10%
2. Class tests – 60%
3. Final – 30%

**Reading, Classroom format:** I will lecture on all days except possibly on Fridays. On some Fridays, I will make you do the work. I will ask you to work on problems in small groups, or I might call you to work out a problem on the board. These Friday sessions will be very informal and interactive. The other lectures of the week will be somewhat formal. You MUST read, or at least skim through, the relevant section ahead of time. I will tell you in advance what sections I will be covering. You should always feel free to interrupt me anytime you have a question during the lecture.

**General rules:** Attending lectures is incredibly important. If you start skipping lectures, very soon you may find yourself at sea, so please be warned. Never hesitate to interrupt me during the lecture for questions. I can assure you that there will be several others in the class who will also have the same questions/doubts as you. You are not allowed Calculators on exams, so please refrain from using them while doing homework problems unless necessary. Please note that there are no make up exams, so make sure you don’t miss any exams. Finally, I will be most comfortable if you call me “Sunil” – my first name.

GOOD LUCK!