

## Topics in Chaotic Dynamics, Spring 2014

APMA 1360

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**Office:** 182 George Street, Room 328, **Phone:** (401) 863-2114

**Office Hours:** Tuesday 9:00-11:00, Thursday 9:00-11:00 (and by appointment)

**Class Meeting Times:** MWF: 1:00-1:50

**Class Location:** Barus & Holley 165

**Prerequisites:** Advanced calculus and linear algebra. Students should be comfortable with proofs at the level of advanced calculus or beginning mathematical analysis. In addition, students should be comfortable with computer programming of numerical algorithms (MATLAB code usually).

**Textbooks:** *Nonlinear Dynamics and Chaos*, S.H. Strogatz, 1994.

**Course Description:** An introduction to nonlinear dynamics and chaos. Topics covered will include: one dimensional flows, phase plane analysis, limit cycles, bifurcations, and chaos. Most of the book will be covered in the course.

**Course Rationale:** Many dynamical models of complex phenomena in biology, chemistry, and physics are nonlinear. The purpose of this course is for students to learn how to extract quantitative and qualitative information from such models. Moreover, since modern applied mathematics is intrinsically interdisciplinary a secondary purpose of this course will be to introduce techniques to students outside of their field.

**Class Delivery:** The course material will be delivered through lectures. Evaluation of the students understanding of the material will be assessed through written homework assignments, in class exams and a semester project.

### Course Policies:

- **Grading:**

Your grade will be based on:

- Weekly Homework: 20%
- Two in class exams: 15% each
- Term paper outline: 5%
- Term paper: 15%

- **Homework:**

Homework will be assigned every week on Wednesday and will be due on Friday of the following week. The assigned homework problems will be posted on my website.

- **Modeling Project:**

A significant portion of the student's progress towards completion of the course goals will be evaluated through a modeling project. The project should apply techniques from this course to your field of interest. Ideally, the student should select a research paper to read in detail, reproduce some of the results in the paper and produce results of their own by modifying or extending the paper. The project consists of an outline and a term paper. The outline should be a rough sketch of the topic the student has selected and is **due in class March 14**. The term paper

should be written as an expository article with all mathematical details fully written out.

**Tentative Course Schedule:**

1. Flows on the line (1 week)
2. Bifurcations in one-dimensional systems (1-2 weeks).
3. Flows on the circle (1-2 weeks).
4. Two-dimensional linear systems (1 week).
5. Phase plane (2 weeks).
6. Limit cycles (1-2 weeks).
7. Bifurcations in two-dimensional systems (1-2 weeks).
8. Chaotic dynamics (rest of the semester).

**Important Dates:**

1. March 14: Outline of project due.
2. February 21: Exam 1
3. April 4: Exam 2
4. May 5: Term paper due.