

# MAT 285: Life Sciences Calculus I

## M006 — Fall 2023

This is a MAT 285 Section M006 syllabus that supplements the MAT 285 course-wide syllabus.  
Last updated: 08/27/2023

### Instructor Information

*Name:* Jianqing Jia  
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*Office:* Carnegie 400E  
*Office Hours:* TuTh 4:00PM or by appointment

### Class Information

*Dates:* Aug 29, 2023 – Dec 12, 2023

*Time:* TuTh 5:00 – 6:20PM

*Classroom:* Carnegie 200

*Instruction Mode:* In person

### Grading

The course grade is determined by the following components:

Homework	10%
Quizzes and Participation	10%
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Exam 3	20%
Final Exam	20%

Grades and important announcements will be posted on Blackboard. Please check Blackboard regularly to ensure the grades have been recorded correctly. You should bring clerical errors to the instructor's attention within one week of the date an assignment was returned.

### Grade Scale

Final grades will be given according to the following scale:

Raw Grade $x$	Letter Grade	Raw grade	Letter Grade
$93 \leq x \leq 100$	A	$77 \leq x < 80$	C+
$90 \leq x < 93$	A-	$73 \leq x < 77$	C
$87 \leq x < 90$	B+	$70 \leq x < 73$	C-
$83 \leq x < 87$	B	$60 \leq x < 70$	D
$80 \leq x < 83$	B-	$0 \leq x < 60$	F

## Homework

The key to success in this course is to master the homework. Homework will be assigned everyday in class. Homework will be done online using WeBWorK, an open-source homework system. The number of attempts is unlimited. Problems can be done in any order. You do not have to do them all at once. If you need or desire an extension on any homework for any reason, contact the instructor in a timely fashion before the due time, as permitted by the need.

*Extra WeBWorK Credit:* You will receive 33% extra credit for correct answers submitted at least 3 days (72 hours) before the due date. This will be handled by setting full credit at 75%, so any score over 75% contains extra credit. In effect, your WeBWorK score will be multiplied by 4/3 at the end of semester.

### WEBWORK ACCESS INFORMATION:

1. Go to <http://webwork.syr.edu/>
2. Click on the class name “MAT\_285\_Fall\_2023\_Jia”.
3. Your username is your NetID in lower case letters (for example, “jqpublic”).
4. Your password is initially set to be your 9-digit SUID (do not include the 10th digit on the actual ID card). Also, note that even if you used WeBWorK before for another course, the password is reset to the 9-digit student id number.

Homework will be worth 10% of your final grade.

## Quizzes and Participation

There will often be a closed-book weekly quiz. The problems on the quiz will be very close to lecture example problems or the homework. And the quiz problems could be similar to some of the exam problems.

There will be a few attendance checks in some lectures throughout this semester. You will lose some points for participation if you miss the attendance check without excused absence in advance. Should you need to miss a class for any reason, you are to contact the instructor in a timely manner.

Quizzes and participation will be worth 10% of your final grade.

## Exams

There will be three mid-term tests during the semester, each accounting for 20% of your final grade. There are no makeup tests. However, for excused absences with document (the only acceptable document that may be used for such a request is a written document with signature from a doctor/the dean’s office/the police/other emergency authority.), the corresponding portion of the comprehensive final exam will be used in place of the missing test score. Tests will be scheduled in the time frame below. The exact exam date will be announced in a timely manner.

The final exam is comprehensive and accounts for 20% of the final grade. The MAT 285 final exam will be scheduled for a two-hour period at some time on Friday, December 15, 2023 between

8:00am and 2:30pm ET. The precise time will be announced in class later.

STUDENTS MUST TAKE THE FINAL EXAM AT THE LISTED TIME. DO NOT MAKE PLANS TO LEAVE CAMPUS BEFORE 2:30pm ET ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2023. THERE ARE NO PROVISIONS FOR TAKING THE FINAL EXAM AT ANY OTHER TIME!

Exam schedule summarized as follows:

Test 1	Week of September 25, 2023
Test 2	Week of October 23, 2023
Test 3	Week of November 27, 2023
Final Exam	Friday, December 15, 2023

## Important Dates

Tuesday, September 5	Last day to add a class or to change a section
Monday, September 18	Last day to drop a class (no mark on transcript)
Tuesday, November 28	Last day to withdraw (WD mark on transcript)

## Tips for Success

- It is absolutely essential that you understand how to solve the assigned homework problems and, more importantly, how and why the skills and techniques presented in the course are used in solving the assign problems. Exam questions will be similar to these problems.
- Ask questions about anything that is not completely clear. Don't hesitate to bring questions to your instructors during office hours.
- Every day, read and study the sections in the textbook covered in the lecture. Learning mathematics takes time! Read carefully and work through all the examples in complete detail. It can be helpful to try to work through an example on your own before reading the solution.
- Stay caught up. Mathematical concepts build on each other cumulatively and you need to stay on top of the material at every stage. If you are having difficulty, don't expect that the problem will take care of itself and disappear later. Contact your course instructor immediately and discuss the problem!
- Form a study group. Many students benefit from a study group to work through challenging problems and to review for exams. You should attempt the problems ahead of time by yourself and then work through any difficulties with your study partners. Explaining your reasoning to another student can help to clarify your own understanding.
- You should expect to work hard. Don't get discouraged if you find some of the material very difficult. Be persistent and patient! If you follow the above suggestions, your experience in this course will be a rewarding one.

## **Respect Policy**

I respect your time:

- I will come prepared to help you understand the course material and prepare you for quizzes/exams.
- Communication is key: I cannot help you if I do not know what is going on.
- I am here to help you, this is your time, so let me know what I can do to help you succeed.
- If there is something that you would like me to do differently, please, let me know. I am happy to work with you to make class the best it can be.

Respect my time:

- Be on time to class.
- Pay attention when I am talking to you.
- Come to class prepared by doing the work and going to office hours when you need help.

Respect each other:

- Do not be disruptive. If you need to take a call or text someone, take it outside.
- Work with each other to find solutions. You learn more by helping each other.
- Allow one another to make mistakes. This is an important part of the learning process.
- Use respectful language when talking with one another.