Welcome to Math 266, my name is Jim Coykendall, and I will be your instructor for this course. My office is 412K Minard Hall, and my office hours this semester will be from 5:30-8:00am, 9:00am-10:00am, and 12:00pm-2:00pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. If my hours are inconvenient then email me (jim.coykendall@ndsu.edu or, better yet, jim.coykendall@gmail.com) or give me a call (office 231-8079) and we will work something out. Another good resource for this course is my homepage, which can be found at https://www.ndsu.edu/pubweb/~coykenda/

In general, you may consider my office an “open door”, and I strongly recommend that you come and see me if you are having any trouble in class (or if you find that you are not being challenged enough). Come by...I enjoy seeing my students.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: First course in ordinary differential equations. Topics covered will include theory and techniques for first order linear and nonlinear equations. Techniques and theory for higher order linear differential equations. Series solutions, Laplace transforms, systems of linear equations.

GOALS: To give students an understanding of and an appreciation for the theory and applications of differential equations. Both computational and conceptual skills will be emphasized. Students will be exposed to both theoretical and applied points of view and applications to other disciplines will be highlighted.

TEXTBOOK: The text will be Elementary Differential Equations by Boyce and DiPrima.

HOMEWORK/QUIZZES: It is imperative that you do homework. If you have trouble with the problems (or any others in your book) then see me ASAP. Please work as many problems as you can. Your goal should be to be able to do every problem in the text (and in general). The bottom line is that if you want to learn some mathematics, the only way to do this is by “getting your hands dirty” working problems. You should expect to hand in some assigned problems or take a quiz at least once a week. The homeworks/quizzes will be averaged for part of your final grade.

EXAMS: There will be four examinations taking place in class on 1/30, 2/27, 3/21, and 4/11. The final exam (as per your spring registration schedule) will take place on Tuesday, May 8 from 1:00pm-3:00pm in Walster 207. No calculators will be allowed on the exams.

GRADES: Here is a breakdown of the quizzes/exams/final:

Quiz Average...25%
Exam 1...12.5%
Exam 2...12.5%
Exam 3...12.5%
Exam 4...12.5%
Final...25%

If you get the following scores (out of 100) you will receive:
90-100...A
80-89...B
70-79...C
60-69...D

SPECIAL NEEDS: Any students with disabilities or other special needs, who need special accommodations in the course, are invited to share these concerns or requests with the instructor as soon as possible.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: All work in this course must be completed in a manner consistent with NDSU University Senate Policy, Section 335: Code of Academic Responsibility and Conduct (http://www.ndsu.nodak.edu/policy/335.htm).

I wish you the best of luck in this course, please stop by and keep me posted on how you are doing.