Addendum to Multivariable Calculus Syllabus
For Discussion Sections 013/015

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Office Hours: Monday 3:25pm – 5:25pm; Wednesday 4:30pm – 6:30pm, Vincent Hall 505

“Mathematics is the music of reason.”
- James Joseph Sylvester

About Discussion Format: The discussion sections will not generally be held in a single format. Sometimes, I will solve certain specific problems on the board; other times, I will prepare a worksheet for you to solve individually or in groups, with my help. Invariably though, I will be there to answer any questions you have about lecture or homework. I will prioritize the solving of questions that seem more relevant to impending quiz/test material. Also, make sure to check your e-mail for announcements regarding the discussions/quizzes/tests/etc.

About Class Conduct: Generally, you will be treated as a responsible adult in the discussion sections. That is to say, it is up to you to devote your attention to the discussion; it is up to you to come to class; it is up to you to keep up with your class notes and the class announcements. The following bullet points establish some general guidelines that will be followed in the discussion section:

- **No noise** will be tolerated. If someone is disrupting the class environment through noise, the person may be asked to leave. Do not engage in off-topic conversations with others. On the other hand, you are strongly encouraged to ask me any on-topic questions that come to your mind during the discussion. In certain discussion formats, cooperation among the students will be central.
- Laptop/tablet use is allowed only if it occurs in the last two rows of the classroom (so that it doesn't distract students behind you), and only if used in complete silence.
- Cellphone use is allowed outside of quizzes and tests only if used in complete silence.
- Out of respect for your fellow classmates, please do not consume food in the classroom. However, if for some medical reason there may arise an urgent need for you to eat at some moment, please let me know and we can discuss an exception.
- Non-alcoholic beverages are acceptable.
- After turning in a midterm examination, you may leave the classroom.

About Quizzes: Whenever there is a quiz on a given day, the quiz will occur **at the beginning of class** and last no more than 10 minutes. No extra time will be given if you're late, and I may go over quiz solutions immediately after a quiz. Per an agreement by all the course TAs and the professor, there will be **no make-ups** for quizzes for any reason, so make sure to come to class on time! But do recall that **only the best 8 out of 10 quiz scores will impact your final score.** See the course Syllabus for more information.
**About Homework:** Whenever homework is to be turned in, it must be turned in **at the beginning of class, STAPLED**, since I may go over starred homework problems during class time. Homework that is given to me after the first 10 minutes but before the end of discussion loses automatically half of the score. Unstapled homework is not considered submitted, with no exceptions. **No late homework** will be accepted for any reason. There will be 13 homework assignments this semester, and **only the best 11 out of 13 are considered for your grade**. Each homework assignment will be worth 8 points. At most two of the starred exercises will be graded, and a particular homework score will depend only on your performance on the starred exercises I choose to grade. The exercises I choose to grade are not specified ahead of time.

**About Office Hours:** You are **most encouraged** to come to office hours, as often as you want! It is ok to entertain homework questions during office hours, even if the problems are due thereafter (in this case, I do not promise that I'll fully solve the question for you!) I reserve the right to leave my office hours during the last 20 minutes each day only if no student is meeting me and no student has explicitly asked to meet me in the last 20 minutes.

I conclude with some advice/opinion regarding academia, and you are welcome to heed it or disregard it as you see fit:

It is very important to remember that, despite what academic culture may make you feel at times, your **worthiness as a person is not at all determined by your performance in courses**. Understand that you are not less (or more) of a person just because you are performing badly (or well) in an academic course! Once this is fully grasped, you will see that it makes no emotional sense to compare your progress to others’ (since individual situations can be, and are, wildly different), and you will see that the fear of asking questions out of embarrassment in a lecture is based on nothing substantial. Having realized this, you will then be free to pursue excellence in learning **on your own terms, at your own pace**, in a way that maximizes your progress, because deep down you'll know that something as transient as your academic performance on a given hour in a given day does not and cannot define your general intellect, and much less your humanity!

So, don't study with the purpose of making yourself feel better, but rather try to reach the point where you study out of satisfying your personal intellectual hunger! Anyway, I think this perspective has been helpful to me, and thus I share it to you.