Course Details

Instructor

My name is Stefan LLEWELLYN SMITH. My e-mail address is sgls@ucsd.edu. My e-mail address is sgls@ucsd.edu, but if you have a question, talk to me before or after class, or come to office hours.

Schedule

Lectures: TuTh 11:00 am–12:20 pm in Nierenberg Hall 101. My e-mail address is sgls@ucsd.edu, but if you have a question, talk to me before or after class, or come to see me. Office hours: I will aim to be available on Tuesdays and Thursdays in Keck 365 (SIO); you can make an appointment to meet me. It is your responsibility to come and find me if you have questions, concerns, etc. Problem class Tu 1–2 pm in Keck; W 1–2 pm in EBU II 270.

Homework

There will be six homeworks. They will be posted a week before they are due; see the website for dates. No late homework will be accepted; hand in (or get someone else to hand in) what you have done on the due date.

Website

See top of page. Homework, solutions and the like will be posted on the website.

Assessment

The grade in this course is based on homeworks, a midterm, and a final exam. An approximate division is 20%, 30% and 50%, but this is by no means definite. Exams will be “open-note and open-textbook”, i.e. you may bring in hand-written material and the textbook. No calculators, no cell phones, no computers during midterm or final exams. There will be no make-up exams except in exceptional circumstances. Your final grade is the culmination of a quarter-long effort. I do not like giving C grades and lower for graduate courses. Please try and keep me happy. I encourage you to discuss the material among yourselves. When it comes to assigned homework however, everything you turn in should be essentially your own. If you and a friend have worked too closely on a problem, please say so. Needless to say, collaboration is not permitted during exams.
Prerequisites

In theory, calculus, differential equations, linear algebra, complex analysis, freshman physics. In practice, MAE 294A/SIO 203A. This is a graduate class. If you think you can master these prerequisites concurrently, you can try.

Rough syllabus

Phase plane analysis: phase line, phase plane, classification of singularities, rudiments of bifurcation theory.

Local analysis: ISPs

Perturbation theory: algebraic problems, regular and singular perturbation theory, dominant balance.

Method of Multiple Scales

Matched Asymptotic Expansions: review of regular and singular problems, formal inner and outer solutions, matching by intermediate variable and van Dyke’s rule.

WKB: Liouville–Green expansions, WKB expansion, connection formulas.

Asymptotic Expansion of Integrals: Laplace’s method, stationary phase, not quite steepest descents…

Textbooks

There is no specific textbook for this class. You may find the following useful. First Advanced Mathematical Methods of Scientists and Engineers by Bender & Orszag (BO). This hard but good. Another good book on perturbation methods is Perturbations Methods by Hinch. This overlaps with BO, but the emphasis is different. See also Singular perturbation theory: mathematical and analytical techniques with applications to engineering by R. S. Johnson.

A classic reference on applied mathematics is Methods of Mathematical Physics by Jeffreys & Jeffreys. A remarkable book even today. Two other good books on the general material, which concentrate on the physical background, are Methods of Mathematical Physics by Matthews & Walker, and Mathematical Methods for Physicists by Arfken (I prefer the second edition). An excellent book covering special functions and asymptotic methods is Asymptotics and Special Functions by F. Olver. Good references for complex analysis are Functions of a Complex Variable by Carrier, Krook & Pearson, and Complex Variable by Ablowitz & Fokas.

You should start becoming familiar with mathematical handbooks. The one true word is in the Handbook of Mathematical Functions,
edited by Abramowitz & Stegun (AS). There is also a new version. For integrals, series and products, see *Table of Integrals, Series, and Products* by Gradshteyn & Ryzhik (GR).

**Academic integrity**

See UCSD’s policy on (there is a link on the class web page). Don’t do it.

**OSD Accommodation**

Please come and see me at least two weeks before exams to discuss.

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**Stefan G. Llewellyn Smith**

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**Research interests:**  

**Interests:**  
Japanese; cocktails; rowing; the oceans.

**Education:**


**Some recent publications:**


