Math E-15 Spring 2017 Textbook FAQ

Is there a required text? No, there is no required textbook for this course. Everything you need to know will be presented in the lectures; the homework assignments are written by me and are posted on the course website.

Is there a recommended text? Yes, there is a recommended book that some students like to buy. This is Calculus by Deborah Hughes-Hallett, et al. The course website offers suggested practice problems and solutions from this book for the fourth, fifth, and sixth editions. There is no significant difference between these three editions, so you can use any of them with equal confidence.

Is the book on reserve? There is a copy of the fourth edition on reserve in Grossman Library in Sever Hall.

How much does it cost? The Harvard Coop is selling new copies of the sixth edition for about $200 and used copies for about $150. They also offer rentals and eTextbooks for between $80 and $180.

That’s expensive. Is there a cheaper option? Yes! This is what I most want to point out. There are many online sources of used books that have much lower prices. For instance, half.com is currently offering a large number of used copies of the fourth edition in good or better condition for under $10. The ISBN of the fourth edition is 0-471-48482-2, and that of the fifth edition is 978-0-470-08915-6.

What if I want to take Math E-16 next? The instructor for Math E-16 (the next course in the calculus sequence) for Fall 2017 has not yet been announced. However, in Fall 2016 Math E-16 students had to use the sixth edition.

I hope some of you will find this information useful.

Please feel free to email me (etowne@fas.harvard.edu) with any questions about the book or the course in general.