Carl Lienert* (lienert_c@fortlewis.edu). Using SIMIODE Scenarios to Drive a Differential Equations Course.

On the first day of my Differential Equations course in Fall 2019 I presented students with a SIMIODE scenario, i.e. an open ended “story problem.” This scenario and subsequent ones, and their solutions, determined the trajectory of the course. Rather than follow a standard textbook curriculum, we discussed and developed in class the tools needed to model and solve the problems.

I’ll discuss the results:

• Did students have a better idea of the value of differential equations?
• Were they confused by the non-textbook path?
• Were standard DE curricular goals compromised?
• Could the students propose models on their own?
• Did my colleagues in Engineering notice?
• etc.

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