

# AP Calculus AB Course Syllabus 2013-2014

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Meeting Times: 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>

Tutorial Times: Tue-Wed during lunch or afterschool until 4

**Goal:** Prepare students for the next step in their lives through a good understanding of Calculus I

## Resources and Materials:

- Textbook: Smith, Minton Calculus 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (*Bring with you!*)
- *Stu Schwartz's Lecture Notes for AB Calculus Topics* Manual
- TI-83/84/89 Graphing Calculator (**BRING EVERY DAY**)
- **Organized** binder (MATH only) with paper and dividers (lesson and assignment schedules, lesson notes and handouts, mathematicians, POWs, quizzes, test corrections) (**BRING EVERY DAY**)
- PENCILS (**BRING EVERY DAY**)
- Straightedge (Student ID, **BRING EVERY DAY**, should suffice)
- Lots of notebook paper and I mean LOTS!!!
- Note pads for corrections
- Red pen for corrections

## Course Calendar/Schedule:

- Spend at least 15-30 minutes a day, seven days a week on math (studying and doing homework). Make a schedule to follow weekly.
- Assignments: Homework, as stated on assignment schedule, is due the next class meeting. **There is NO late homework accepted**
- Due dates:
  - Homework is due the class following the lesson. **Hint: YOU DO NOT NEED TO DO EVERY PROBLEM I ASSIGN. JUST DO ENOUGH TO GET THE IDEA. I WOULD SAY THE MINIMUM SHOULD BE ABOUT 4 PROBLEMS**
- We will have short quizzes throughout the semester as posted on the calendar. Majority of these quizzes are checks on homework. Make sure that you are always looking and reviewing old math material: <http://mastermathmentor.com/calc/RUReady.ashx>
- Exams as stated on the assignment schedule
- All students will be expected to take two **MANDATORY** AP Practice Exams in the Spring in preparation for the AP Exam, one after school during the week of April 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> and one on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (This will count as your Spring Final Exam). These are crucial to your performance on the AP Exam and to your grade in this class.
- Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> 2012, morning AP Calculus Exam for College Credit!

## Course Policies:

- Attendance:
  - If absent, you will need to get together with another student and online for the lecture notes, etc.
  - If you know you will be out of my class, you need to tell me ASAP (by talking face to face, call, or email).
  - You are responsible in getting the solutions to the homework problems on the day that you miss. I will have all solutions available.
  - **Hint: Try not to be absent!! This is a fast-paced class.**
- Tardies: Please get to my class on time. If this becomes a negative habit, then your conduct marking will be affected and disciplinary action will be taken.
- Cell Phone Policy and other Electronic Devices: **No electronic devices are allowed at anytime. If I catch you for ANY reason having a cell phone out, you will receive a 0 for that day's activity. This includes even exams! More details will be given during class.**
- Guidelines for turning in assignments
  - Unless otherwise stated, all answers should be rounded to 3 decimal places.
  - Solutions should NEVER just be a single number without some description of how you got that number.
  - No Work = No Credit (NWNC).
  - I will randomly come by and check for homework. **Understand if you fail to prepare, then prepare to fail.**

- Make-ups:
  - **There are no make-up homework assignments.**
  - If an absence is excused, the quiz will be replaced with the next test.
  - Make-up exams will be taken at an assigned time that fits both of our schedules.
- Redoing Assignments and Exams for grades below 75:
  - Students will be given one opportunity to retake an exam one week from receiving the original grade if the exam corrections are completed in tutorials before the redo.
  - The retakes will count up to a 75. There will be no bonus or curving on these grades.
  - Test retakes will be at an assigned time that fits both of our schedules.
  - Only one test redo per six weeks.
- Cheating:
  - Cheating is putting answers down that are not yours. This includes but is not limited to: copying someone's homework or in class assignments, copying answers from the internet, using a pencil when we are checking work, letting someone else copy your work, having someone else's hw paper, using a cheat sheet for a quiz or test, etc.
  - Students will receive a grade of 0, a P in conduct, and a discipline referral from me. A P in conduct can affect your NHS standing.
  - No grade is worth cheating over. In the end you hurt yourself and your classmates. Trust is hard to rebuild.
- Tutorials:
  - All students are encouraged to come to tutorials during lunch or after school
  - If you have trouble with more than 3 HW questions, you are expected to come for tutorials.
  - Showing an initiative to come by and get help could impact your grade in a positive way if you end up being borderline.
- Grades:
  - Overall Six Weeks Average determined by:
    - Quizzes 20%
    - Homework/Daily work 10%
    - Exams/Projects 70%
  - Grades are online, check to make sure they are correct. Let me know ASAP if I need to check a grade.

Some Test will be AP caliber and thus difficult. I will be using the following scale for these tests.

AP Score	Range of Values	Percent Correct on Test	Your Grade
5	67-108	62%-100%	90%-100%
4	54-66	50%-61%	80%-89%
3	41-53	38%-49%	75%-79%
2	33-40	31%-37%	70%-74%
1	0-32	0%-30%	50%-69%

- Other exams will consists of a take home portion and then an in class portion. The take home portion will be multiple choices and be 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the exam grade. The in class portion will be a short 15-30 minute free response exam. This will be graded on a normal grading scale. **I encourage you to work together on the take home portion of the exam!**

## How to Help Your Child Succeed in AP Calculus

Make sure your child is doing homework regularly. Assignments are given at every class meeting. Check for completeness. 30 minutes of math everyday.

1. Encourage your child to read the textbook, make notes as necessary, and study its examples. There are also very good instructional videos online at [www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org) and [www.houstonact.org](http://www.houstonact.org) in case they are absent or just want to have the material presented again. Another great site is to look at iTunes University.
2. Help your child to ask questions in class, on the forum, and in tutorials. "I don't understand this!" is NOT a question. "Can you help me see where I made a mistake in working problem #3?" is something we can work with.
3. If your child is having difficulty, encourage him or her to come in for tutorials. I am available during lunch and after school and by appointment.
4. Help your child to take a serious approach to forming a study group with other serious students. Pizza can be a powerful lure to entice study-ers to your house. More than four students becomes a party instead of a study group.
5. Help your child to organize his or her time and prioritize tasks.
6. Encourage your child to persevere in spite of challenges. This might be the first course in which your child really has to struggle to master the material. Remember that it's better to learn how to struggle now than when they are off by themselves in college.
7. Encourage your child to stay involved in academics during the spring semester.
8. Encourage your child to prepare for the AP Calculus Examination. The exam will take place May 4<sup>th</sup>.
9. Encourage your child to attend the AP Calculus Exam prep sessions that are held during the spring semester. Put them on your family calendar when they become available.
10. Please contact me right away with any concerns you might have about your child's performance. My email is [mondbruch@houstonisd.org](mailto:mondbruch@houstonisd.org) . My phone number at school is (281) 920-8000 ext. 6046

I work very hard to help all students master the concepts and skills of AP Calculus. Student success will depend on many factors, including previous math knowledge and personal motivation. With all of us working together, we can help to ensure that your child has the best possible learning experience.

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We have read and understand the AP Calculus AB Course Syllabus.

Student Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent email \_\_\_\_\_

Period\_\_\_\_\_

If possible please donate: red pens, AAA batteries, tissue box

Questions/Comments: