

Precalculus AB Syllabus

The curriculum for Pre-AP Precalculus we will be following is set by the state in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, in conjunction with the AP Strategies curriculum. Please see the Course Overview for a list of units and their approximate dates for the 1st semester.

Grades: The overall grade is a percentage determined by the breakdown shown below. Assessments (FRQ and MCQ quizzes and tests) may be calculator or non-calculator or both. Please see the Grading Policy handout for detailed descriptions of each category.

30%	Free-Response Assessments (including out-of-class projects)
35%	Multiple-Choice Assessments
20%	Memory Quizzes and Test Reviews
15%	Homework & Daily Grades

Homework: On average, the homework load is designed to require approximately 30 to 45 minutes per day outside of class, depending on the difficulty of the topic and assuming that you took appropriate notes during class. Some topics may take more time for some students. Expect a homework assignment daily. You must show all work to receive credit. Calculators are allowed unless the instructions specify otherwise. You may *discuss* the homework with other students, but you are expected to complete each problem on your own; copying another student's work is never acceptable and will result in a grade of 0 for the assignment for both the copier and the student who permitted their work to be copied.

I will check homework for overall completion and then post a key to Canvas for you to check your answers for correctness after the assignment is due. Once or twice a week, you will be given an open-note understanding check assignment containing 2-4 problems similar to the homework to complete, usually online on Canvas but occasionally on paper. To complete the understanding checks, you should bring your laptop to class, charged, every day. You will receive one homework grade per week for the completion checks assigned that week and one grade for that week's daily debriefs.

Notebook: You are expected to bring your Precalculus notebook to class daily. You must have a binder solely for this class containing both loose-leaf paper and graph paper; composition notebooks are not acceptable. Your binder should contain your notes and annotated problems from class in chronological order in one section with numbered pages and dates, and all returned work in a second section. Any handouts given during class should also be kept in chronological order in the binder. A teacher or student from another class should be able to look at your notebook and understand what we have been doing. I strongly recommend keeping a table of contents at the beginning of your notes and updating it after each lesson.

Completion of Assignments: All out-of-class assignments are due at the *beginning* of the class period. In-class assignments are due when I call for them. Late work will receive a late penalty of -30 points if it is one day late, and a late penalty of -50 points if it is two or more days late, unless it is late due to an absence; if you are absent, you must either turn in the late assignment or make arrangements with me within 3 days of returning to school. *No unexcused late work will be accepted more than one week late.* Assignments must be turned in directly to the teacher, not placed on my desk or in my mailbox; do not

give an assignment to another student to turn in unless you have pre-approved it with me. Emailed or digital submissions on Canvas are acceptable and may be required for some projects.

I post daily homework assignments both on the whiteboard in the classroom and on the class site on Canvas. I also post a copy of the Smartboard notes for the day on Canvas at the end of each class day. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to find out what was assigned while you were out and complete the make-up work in a timely manner; I strongly encourage you to check Canvas for assignments as soon as you are able. If you miss class due to a school activity, such as a field trip, athletic competition, or similar activity, it is your responsibility to turn in assignments that were due that day as soon as you return to school, and to obtain the notes and assignments that were given that day.

Make-Ups, Test Corrections, Retakes, and Tutorials: If you miss a test, quiz, or memory quiz due to an absence, you must schedule a make-up with me, either in writing or via email, no later than the day you return to class. Make-ups must occur within three class days of your return unless you have a medical excuse. Understanding checks on Canvas may be made up on your own, but it is always a good idea to notify me via either email, Canvas message, or Remind when you complete an online assignment late.

If you earn a score on a MCQ assessment between 65 and 74, you have the option of doing test corrections to improve your score. You may earn up to 5 points back, up to a maximum of a 75. The procedure for test corrections is described on the grading policy handout; you must follow the procedure to regain credit.

Retakes will occur during the week immediately following the return of a graded assessment. To receive a retake, you must schedule it with me online via Canvas or email, no later than two class days after the test or quiz has been returned to you. Usually, I will assign a specific day for retakes; if not, retakes should be scheduled for no later than one week after the return of the assessment. I require attendance to at least one tutorial session before a retake, to check that you understand your mistakes.

I am available for tutorials, make-ups, and/or retakes during SSEP and lunch on most days; I will post any dates when I am not available on the back wall whiteboard. If you discover that you are having difficulty with a particular concept, please do not hesitate to come for assistance either during SSEP or during lunch; if you wish to come during SSEP, please pick up a pass from me during class the day *before* you wish to attend tutorials, as I do not give them out before school in the mornings. I am also available for make-ups after school by appointment; please schedule these with me at least 24 hours in advance.

Class Rules:

Be prompt and prepared for class every day.

Treat all participants in the class – the school, the teacher, other classmates, and yourself – with respect.

Come to class prepared to learn, think, analyze, ask questions, and work.

Contact Info:

The fastest and most reliable way to contact me during the school day is through email; my address is jramon1@houstonisd.org. Students may contact me through the Remind app outside of school hours. If for some reason you cannot email me or send a Remind message, you may also call the school main line at 713-732-3690 and leave a message; I will attempt to return the call as soon as possible.