

AP Calculus AB Course Syllabus

Mrs. Cathy Doxtater
catherine.doxtater@houstonisd.org
(281) 920-8000, ext. 036210
Room #: E121
Class Meeting Times: 2nd, 3rd and 7th Periods
Conference Period: 4th Period

Tutorial Times: Monday lunch, 11:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Thursday lunch, 11:15 – 11:45 a.m.
Most mornings 7:00 – 7:30 a.m.
No Tutorials: 1st Tuesday lunch (*NHS Officer Mtg. days*)
2nd Tuesday lunch (*NHS Chapter Mtg. days*)
Test Days (*encourages cramming*)

Resources and Materials:

- Textbooks: Primary – Larson, Calculus of a Single Variable, 8th edition
- Mrs. Doxtater's Lecture Notes for AB Calculus Topics* Manuals
- TI-89 Graphing Calculator (*provided, BRING EVERY DAY*)
- Organized** binder (MATH only) with COLLEGE-RULED paper and dividers (lesson and assignment schedules, handouts, homework, POWs, quizzes)
- PENCILS (***all work is to be done in pencil***), as well as a pen (*for corrections on homework*)

Course Description/Objectives:

- Overview: Calculus is a study of change incorporating all previously studied math concepts.
- Content: Limits, Differentiation and its Applications, Integration and its Applications, Logarithmic, Exponential and other Transcendental Functions, Volumes by Slicing and Revolving
- Instructional methods: lecture, discovery, participation and group work
- Goals: critical reading, analytical thinking, creative synthesis and problem-solving, and attention to detail regarding all AB topics, and beyond (some that are not on the AP Exam, but which I believe to be important)
- Objective: preparation for college options as well as an outstanding performance on the AP Calculus AB Exam administered internationally on **May 5, 2020**
- Major work: Homework (Learning Opportunities - LOpps, Suggested Problems - SuPrs), Quizzes, Circuits and other classwork, Problems of the Week (POWs – AP Free Response Questions), Exams, completed Calculus Manual

Course Calendar/Schedule:

- Assignments: LOpps (and SuPrs), Circuits, POWs, Calculus Manual entries, and Other as stated on assignment schedule
- Due dates:
 - Assignments are due the class following the lesson!!! No Exceptions. No “late” work since it hinders your learning.
 - POWs will be done during the class period (these are critical in your understanding of course topics and in a satisfying performance on the AP Calculus AB Exam in May)
 - Occasionally, Take-Home portions of Exams will be given the class period prior to the In-Class portion of the Exams, and may be worked together (as a form of a study sheet) and are due at the beginning of class on the day of the Exam (please take care not to be absent the class prior to an exam). **NO ASSISTANCE from parents, teachers, tutors, former Calculus students or internet resources, etc. on Take-Home portion!!** Completion of the Take-Home portion should **never** be considered adequate preparation for Exams. (I highly recommend SuPrs for technical skill!!!)
- Quizzes will usually be unannounced, always at the beginning of class and before homework is discussed – be prepared at any time for an evaluation of your progress.
- Exams as stated on the assignment schedule → **DO NOT MISS AN EXAM!!! MAKE-UPS ARE UNDESIREABLE!!!** DO NOT “FORGET” TO BRING THE TAKE-HOME PORTION ON TEST DAY (when applicable) BECAUSE YOU WILL AUTOMATICALLY LOSE THESE POINTS (usually 10 – 15 pts.) ON THE EXAM!
- Students will be expected to take TWO MANDATORY AP Practice (Mock) Exams in the Spring in preparation for the AP Exam, and will count as test grades in the last Six Weeks cycle** (PT #1 will be given March 31st - April 3 during class; PT #2 will be given Wed., April 15 after school from 3:30 – 7:00 p.m. *For PT #2, please make arrangements to be present, including adjusting work schedules, and pack a good snack for a very short break around 5:15.* **These exams are crucial to your performance on the AP Exam.**
- Tuesday, May 5th**, morning exam period → the AP Calculus AB Exam, given internationally at this time, will be taken by all Westside students enrolled in AB Calculus. We have a community breakfast that morning from 6:45 – 7:30. You will not want to miss this!!
- This course is the equivalent of one college semester of the Calculus 1 course, and will be conducted as such. You are fortunate to have the opportunity to take this course. You will be grateful for the learning and studying skills you have learned when you get to college. Trust me on this.

Course Policies:

▪ **Attendance:**

- **You cannot learn when you are not here.** Second-hand information cannot replace in-person learning and activities. Please collaborate with peers for information when you have missed class. I will not personally reteach the lesson to you.
- If you know **prior** to missing a test that you will be absent for any reason (college, medical, school activity, etc.), please make arrangements with me **ahead of time** to re-schedule your test!! **If you are unexpectedly absent on test day, please communicate with me promptly via email prior to your class period** so that we can schedule your test to occur within 24 hrs of its original administration. Otherwise, the cumulative 3rd test of the six weeks will count as your missed exam as well.
- In college, a missed test is a “0.” Do not let this behavior become a pattern as it will become a serious problem.

▪ **Tardies:**

- These will affect your performance in this course; please make every effort to be on time to class.
- Quizzes will usually begin as soon as the tardy bell rings, so if you are tardy, you will lose time allocated for the quiz, or miss the quiz completely. No make-ups on quizzes.

▪ **Class Participation:**

- You will regularly present work on the board and work cooperatively with your peers. It the one thing, besides actually doing your homework yourself, we do that will help you learn. This is where you learn to think for yourself.
- **Please understand that a tutor does not help you learn to think for yourself.** For you to master this coursework, you will need to put time into it and learn to speak the mathematical language of Calculus precisely and knowledgeably.

▪ **Make-ups:**

- No make-up on homework. It is due the next class. It is the foundation for the next lesson.
- No make-ups on quizzes. I will usually drop 1 quiz grade; your missed quiz will be the dropped grade.
- **If you know you will miss an exam prior to its administration, and you make arrangements with me **AHEAD OF TIME** to take the exam, you will be permitted to take the original exam as long as it is taken within 24 hours (1 weekday) of its original administration.**
- The cumulative 3rd test of the six weeks will count as your missed exam.

▪ **Re-Tests:**

- These should not be entertained as a healthy option in AB Calculus since this a college-level course, the equivalence of Calculus 1, and re-tests **do not** occur in college. Worry about learning. Let me worry about your grade.
- **You are going to take ONE 3 hr, 15 min EXAM in May for 1 semester of college credit for this course.** If you are conditioned to entertain the idea of “re-tests,” then you will not be prepared for the significance of this singular exam.
- As a compromise to re-tests, the 3rd test of each six weeks, which is cumulative, will enable you to raise your original test score on the 1st and/or 2nd test of each six weeks, based on the material you have demonstrated that you have mastered.

▪ **Cheating:**

- **If you cannot explain your work that you bring to class, it will be clear that you did not do your work yourself!** If you have done the work YOURSELF (i.e., you have not had a tutor coach you through it, nor have copied it from internet resources or someone else), you will know what you did and be able to explain it to others. Period.
- **If you discuss ANY part of a quiz or test with a peer who has not yet taken it, YOU ARE CHEATING.**
- **Other examples of cheating include, but are not limited to:** copying someone’s homework or in-class assignments, copying work/answers from the internet, **using a pencil when we are checking work**, letting someone copy your work, having someone else’s homework paper, using a cheat sheet for a quiz or test, etc. **Honestly, you know what cheating is.**
- **Trust is very difficult to rebuild. Please do not put yourself in this position. No grade is worth it.**

▪ **Expected Behavior:**

- Respect for instructor, peers and yourself
- Honesty, integrity, exemplary character
- Participation in classroom activities
- Completion of all homework assignments
- **Use of PENCIL for homework, quizzes and tests**
- Present and on time to class with all necessary supplies
- Participation in independent study groups (this is the first step to academic success and excellence)
- Attendance at tutorials at designated times when you need help
- Leaving Mrs. Doxtater’s stuff in the same or better condition in which you found it
- **Cut back your work hours if possible!**

- Handle your concerns with maturity and responsibility → **please communicate with me prior to allowing a problem (academic or personal) to get out of hand; this includes correspondence with your parents** – *I expect to know from you first if there is a problem or area of concern. Please do not depend on your parents to solve your problems!! I will not be having continual conversations with your parents about your performance in this class. You must develop mature independence and learn how to properly advocate for yourself so that you can do it when you get to college, and I am here to help you learn how to do that!! Parents cannot intervene in college!!*

- **Unacceptable Behavior:**
 - Taking this course as a GPA “padder” – that is an inappropriate way to approach this course.
 - Profanity (verbal, physical, symbolic or written)
 - Cheating in any form (including copying homework)
 - Disrespect or general surliness
 - Sleeping or non-participation during class activities
 - Not taking care of this space (trash, writing/gum on desks, unfolded blankets, etc.)
 - Incomplete or non-existent homework assignments
 - Fishing for hints during exams – this is **my** day to ask **you** the questions
 - Absence from class, **especially if there is a recurrence, or pattern, on test days**
 - Removing **anything** from the classroom which is not yours
 - Asking for extra credit work to “bring up your grade.” There will not be any. Do your work as expected, on time.
 - Grade grubbing (disputing points on a graded activity. *The grade you receive in this course MUST be an indication of how you will perform on the AP Exam.* As an AP Instructor, my grades are auditable, and if there are a large number of As and Bs, but only a few people actually pass the AP Exam, this brings into question my effectiveness and qualification as an AP Instructor, and I will not put my standing as an AP Instructor into question. I am available to assist you in your success in the course, but there is no “quick fix” for this; it requires regular, consistent and deliberate effort on the part of the student.
 - Telling me that you must have a “(fill in the grade)” for a particular university, or college program, or for a scholarship. It is your responsibility to be in my room regularly, mastering the course material if this is a concern for you. Please do not ask me to give you this necessary grade when you have not earned it. My integrity as an AP Instructor matters to me.

- **Grades:**
 - Overall Six Weeks Average determined by:
 - Homework/Boardwork/Classwork/Other 10%
 - Quizzes/Problems of the Week/Other 20%
 - Exams/Other 70%
 - Bonus Opportunities:
 - 100% attendance and participation on Exam days: 1 pt. earned on the Exam
 - *If you take the test early because you will miss an exam when it is administered in class, you are eligible for the bonus point*
 - Additional points may be earned on each Exam

Students will be issued a TI-89 Calculator and a textbook for the course, to be returned at the end of the year after the AP Exam. It is the student’s responsibility to replace batteries. If either of these is lost or damaged, you are expected to replace it prior to the end of the school year or grades will be held.

We have read and understand the AP Calculus AB Course Syllabus, and the textbook/calculator policy:

Student Name (printed): _____ Class Period: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student email: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent email: _____

If possible, please donate one or more of the following: Kleenex, AAA Batteries, Expo Dry Erase Pens, Hand Sanitizer