

# AP Pre-Calculus Course Syllabus

Mrs. Cathy Doxtater  
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(281) 920-8000, ext. 036210  
Room #: E121  
Class Meeting Times: 7<sup>th</sup> Period  
Conference Period: 4<sup>th</sup> Period

Tutorial Times: Most M, T, F @ Lunch, 11:40 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
Most W, Th @ Lunch, 11:10 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

No Tutorials: First Tuesday lunch (*NHS Officer Mtgs*)  
Second Tuesday lunch (*NHS Chapter Mtgs*)  
**Test Days (*encourages cramming*)**

## Resources and Materials:

- Textbooks: Primary – Larson, Pre-Calculus, 7<sup>th</sup> edition, pdf  
Secondary – Sullivan, Pre-Calculus, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, classroom set
- TI-84 or TI-84+ Graphing Calculator recommended if you provide your own, **BRING EVERY DAY**. Classroom set available for class if needed.
- Organized** binder (MATH only) with COLLEGE-RULED paper and dividers (lesson and assignment schedules, handouts, LOpps, POWs, quizzes)
- PENCILS (*all work is to be done in pencil*), as well as a pen (*for corrections on homework*)

## Course Description/Objectives:

- Overview:** Pre-Calculus is a preparatory course for Calculus with an emphasis on the study of functions and their relationships
- Content:** Linear, Polynomial, Rational and Transcendental (Exponential, Logarithmic and Trigonometric) Functions and their relationships, Conics, Parametric Functions, Polar Functions, Vectors, Matrices
- Instructional methods:** lecture, discovery, and group work
- Goals:** critical reading, analytical thinking, creative synthesis and problem-solving, and attention to detail regarding all Pre-Calculus topics
- Objective:** preparation for college options, as well as correct placement in the AP Calculus course for which you are best suited next year, if applicable, and also preparation for an outstanding performance on the AP Pre-Calculus Exam administered internationally on **Monday, May 13, 2024**
- Major work:** Learning Opportunities (LOpps), Quizzes, Problems of the Week (POWs), Classwork

## Course Calendar/Schedule:

- Assignments:** Learning Opportunities (i.e., Homework), POWs, as stated on assignment schedule and Google Doc Lesson Plans
- Due dates:**
  - Learning Opportunities (LOpps, i.e., Homework) are due the class following the In-Class Lesson activities!!! If you do not have your LOpps, you are not ready for the next material to be discussed, so late work is unacceptable. (AP Packets for AP Exam preparation are included in this expectation.)
  - POWs will usually be assigned in class, as appropriate, on Wednesdays/Thursdays and will be due during the class period (these are critical in your understanding of course topics and in a satisfying performance on the AP Exam in May)
  - Take-Home portions of Exams, when offered, will be distributed three days prior to the In-Class portion of the Exams, are expected to be worked together with classmates (as a form of a study sheet), NOT with tutors, parents, siblings, online assistance, etc. These are due at the **beginning** of class on the day of the Exam. There will be no exceptions to the due date/time for the Take-Home portions of the test.
- Quizzes** will usually be unannounced – be prepared at any time for an evaluation of your progress
- Exams** as stated on the assignment schedule → **DO YOUR BEST NOT TO MISS AN EXAM!!!** DO NOT “FORGET” TO BRING THE TAKE-HOME PORTION ON TEST DAY BECAUSE YOU WILL AUTOMATICALLY LOSE THESE POINTS (usually 10 – 15 pts.) ON THE EXAM!
- Students will be expected to take TWO MANDATORY AP Mock Exams in the Spring in preparation for the AP Exam, and will count as test grades in the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Six Weeks cycle** (ME #1 will be given April 1 – 5 during class; ME #2 will be given the last full week of April; details are pending on this exam administration. **These exams are crucial to your performance on the AP Exam.**
- Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, morning exam period** → the AP Pre-Calculus Exam, given internationally at this time, will be taken by all Westside students enrolled in AP Pre-Calculus.

## Course Policies:

- Attendance:**
  - If absent, please get together with another student for completing the lecture notes and then work collaboratively with other students 1<sup>st</sup>, then from me if the cooperative assistance did not help you. *It is critical that you become an independent learner.* If you know **prior** to missing a class that you will be absent, make a plan for staying ahead.
  - Attending class must be a priority. Be proactive regarding your education!

- If you know **prior** to missing a test that you will be absent, please make arrangements with me ahead of time to schedule your test!! **If you are unexpectedly absent on test day, please communicate with me promptly via email or Remind prior to your class period** so that we can schedule your test. Please try to avoid being in this predicament.
- **Tardies:**
  - Please make every effort to be on time to class.
  - You are tardy if you arrive after the tardy bell has rung, and you are absent if you arrive more than 10 minutes after the tardy bell has rung (school policy). Quizzes will usually begin as soon as the tardy bell rings.
- **Class Participation:**
  - You will regularly present work on the board and work cooperatively with your peers. It is the one thing we do that will help you learn. We celebrate learning from making mistakes! This is where you learn to think for yourself.
    - Please note: “I forgot how I did this” or “I don’t remember how I got to the next step” is a clear indication that you did not think through and do the work yourself. Please know that this is not a good option for you!
  - **Please understand that a paid tutor does not help you learn to think for yourself. The tutor will not sit there while you struggle with a problem, so a tutor tends to give hints to suggest ways to work a problem...the problem is, you won’t have that assistance during a quiz/exam!!**
  - For you to master this coursework, you will need to put time into it and learn to speak “math-y.”
  - **Math is not a spectator sport!!**
- **Assignments:**
  - Usually, you will get a portion of what you would consider to be “typical math homework” done in class. You are expected to complete the rest of it prior to the next class meeting. *Your success in this system will depend on how prepared you are when you come to class, ESPECIALLY with regard to watching the videos from AP Classroom and taking notes prior to the class meeting in which they are to be discussed.*
  - Pre-Calculus takes time for your brain to absorb, and regular practice for your Algebra skills to improve. Doing a little Pre-Calculus work **every day** will strengthen not only your technical skills, but most importantly, your analytical skills. These cannot be rushed or crammed!!! Remember, this is a marathon, not a sprint!
- **Make-ups:**
  - The purpose of Learning Opportunities is to help you become comfortable with course material, concepts and skills, as well as to prepare you for the new material discussed in class. If you have not done it, you are not ready to learn. There is no make-up work that can replace missing or incomplete assignments. Please do not ask for “extra credit” work.
  - **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.** If you are absent on Test day, and contact me via email **prior to** your class’ exam, we will reschedule your exam.
  - A pattern of missing exams is problematic. Please try to avoid being in this predicament.
  - Attending class must be a priority. Quizzes will occur regularly and will not have makeups. I will usually drop 1 or 2 quiz grades; a missed quiz will be the dropped grade.
  - If you are unable to take the test prior to a known absence, or the day after the absence (when you return to school), you will have the opportunity to take a cumulative make-up test at the end of the Six Weeks, administered on **one day** during lunch. You must reserve your opportunity to take this exam with me.
- **Re-Tests:**
  - AP Pre-Calculus is a college-level course and there are no such things as “re-tests” in college. Honestly, if you are working as you should in class and are prepared each day, and can contribute to class activities regularly, you will perform satisfactorily on each test. You worry about learning. Let me worry about your grade. (Marathon, not a sprint.)
  - Also, you are going to take **ONE EXAM** on May 13<sup>th</sup> for college credit for this course. If you are conditioned to entertain the idea of “re-tests,” you will not be prepared for the significance of this singular exam.
  - **As a compromise**, there will be an “old material” section on most exams which enables you to raise your previous original test score, and it is open to anyone who wishes to work it. You must do significantly better on the “old material” portion of the test than you did on the originally tested material in order to earn extra points on the original test. NOTE: This method is better than a re-test because *anyone* has the opportunity to raise a previous test grade.
- **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 another source, or used online assistance), you will know what you did and be able to explain it to others. I expect you to work together on almost everything, because this is how you learn. **You know when you have crossed the line.**
  - **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, letting someone copy your work, having someone else's homework paper, using a cheat sheet for a quiz or test, etc.
- **Trust is very difficult to rebuild. Please do not put yourself in this position with me. No grade is worth it.**
- **Expected Behavior:**
  - Be kind and encouraging.
  - Have respect for instructor, peers and yourself.
  - Exhibit honesty, integrity, and exemplary character.
  - Participate in classroom activities.
  - Watch **all** assigned lesson videos from AP Classroom, and completing **all** learning opportunities by due dates.
  - Use PENCIL for homework, quizzes and tests.
  - Be present and on time to class **with all necessary supplies**.
  - Participate in independent study groups (the first step to academic success and excellence).
  - Attend tutorials to work on course material and to collaborate with others.
  - Carry your weight as you work in groups for the class, especially in the Chapter Presentation Projects.
  - Utilize various resources which will help you better understand the material.
  - Leave Mrs. Doxtater's stuff in the same or better condition in which you found it.
  - **Handle your concerns with maturity and responsibility → please communicate with me prior to allowing a problem (academic or personal) get out of hand – 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!! 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 do that!!**
- **Unacceptable Behavior:**
  - Use profanity (verbal, physical, symbolic or written).
  - Cheat in **any** form (including copying homework).
  - Be disrespectful, inconsiderate or generally surly.
  - Sleep in class.
  - Not take care of this space (trash, writing/gum on desks, etc.)
  - Have incomplete or non-existent homework assignments.
  - Be absent from class, **especially if there is a recurrence, or pattern, on test days**.
  - Remove **anything** from the classroom which is not yours.
  - **Ask if there is any extra credit work you can do to "bring up your grade." Use your class time well to learn!**
  - Grade grub: dispute each point on a graded activity. I put a great amount of time into both creating and assessing all quizzes and tests, as well as the very occasional graded homework.
  - Tell me that you must have a "[fill in the grade]" for admission to 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 as this request calls into question my integrity as an Instructor and AP Teacher.
- **Grades:**
  - **Overall Six Weeks Average determined by:**
    - Classwork/Learning Opportunities/Boardwork/etc. 10%
    - Quizzes/Problems of the Week/etc. 20%
    - Exams 70%
  - **Bonus Opportunities:**
    - 100% attendance and participation on Exam days: 1 pt. earned on the Exam
      - **Note:** if you take the test **early** because you will miss an exam when it is administered in class, you are also eligible for the attendance bonus point
    - Additional points may be earned on each Exam
    - There may, or may not be, additional bonus opportunities offered occasionally in class

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

Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_