

Pre-Calculus Syllabus

Mei-Ling Portugues Brennan
Woodruff Hall Room 915
mportuguesbrennan@tamdistrict.org

Pre-Calculus is the study of analytical topics that are particular to AP Calculus AB preparation and topics that are important in a well-rounded college preparatory mathematics program. Topics include the following: Trigonometry, Polynomials and Rational Functions, Logarithms and Exponential Functions, Polar and Parametric, Conic Sections, Vectors, and Limits and Derivatives.

Pre-Calculus will be a challenging course. We are using a college level text and you should expect to be treated like a college student in many ways, becoming a self-motivated learner, asking good questions, and tackling EVERY problem. Your learning is your responsibility; if you have any questions then come in and ask.

The overarching theme is solving problems and justifying your solution using mathematical models. You will gain practice in critically analyzing information, posing substantive questions and communicating effectively. You will be expected to work both individually, and collaboratively in a group, to solve problems. Engage, contribute, ask questions, be open and supportive, and you will do well.

SUPPLIES:

3 ring binder (2") with three dividers labeled: Notes/Homework, Quizzes, and Test Corrections;
Graph and lined paper (both), Pencils, Erasers, Highlighters; A Red Pen, a Scientific Calculator, i.e. TI-30. Pencils will be used for all work. Pens will be used to make corrections on homework, group work, and tests.

GRADING POLICY:

In Math, how to find the right answer or answers is a **PROCESS**. Therefore, **YOU MUST ALWAYS SHOW YOUR WORK** in addition to the final answer to get credit for your work. We learn more effectively when we are **POSITIVE, ASK QUESTIONS** and **DISCUSS IDEAS**. Therefore, participation will be graded based on positive behavior, asked questions, and discussed ideas in addition to class work. Students are expected to do the work necessary to be prepared for assessments on the assigned date.

Homework and Classwork /Participation	15%/5%
Tests, Quizzes and Projects	60%
Final Exam	20%

Grading Guidelines:

A (100% - 90%)	I totally understand this. I can teach it to someone else.
B (89% - 80%)	I get most of this but struggle if a question is in an un-familiar form.
C (79% - 70%)	I have a basic understanding of the material, but I have difficulty relating what I have learned to previous concepts or at applying new concepts.
D (69% - 60%)	I have a general understanding but copy or do not do homework or I try my very best, do homework and ask for help, but I still struggle.
F (59% - 0%)	I do not do my HW, do not participate in class or do not ask questions.

TESTS/QUIZZES

- All tests are cumulative. This means that you **WILL** be tested on material from previous chapters.
- Missed quizzes or tests due to absence must be made up during tutorial period or by appointment, within 1 day of returning to class. It is **YOUR** responsibility to schedule it with your teacher. Untaken quizzes or tests will be marked as a zero.
- Students will not be able to keep their graded tests, but are encouraged to view them, make test corrections with pens on separate paper with the explanation of mistakes for extra credit, and discuss them in class or during tutorial period.
- A student who fails to demonstrate proficiency on a Unit Test (i.e. score less than 70%), may re-take (one time only) another version of the Unit Test under the following conditions.
 - a) The student must first come in during tutorial to make test corrections to the original test on separate paper with pen explaining mistakes.
 - b) Scores earned on a retest will be capped at a maximum score of 70%.
 - c) Students will retain the higher of the two grades (original and retest capped at 70%).
 - d) Retest must be completed within 1 week of having received the original graded test, during tutorial period or by appointment.

HOMEWORK/PARTICIPATION POLICY:

. Expect homework to be assigned EVERY class period. This is the time you actually learn the material to an important level of understanding. The goal is understanding, NOT just scribbling numbers down on a page of paper. It's critical that you do your homework to be able to participate in homework discussions.

. A Calendar with daily homework will be posted under my teacher website on tamhigh.org.

• For every homework problem, students must write out the problem, show complete and appropriate work, and arrive at an accurate answer. Answers are in the back of the book, and students are responsible for checking answers, and correcting solutions as part of the original homework assignment.

. **On-time and complete homework and positive participation in homework discussions will score 5 out of 5 points. Late homework** handed in prior to the unit test will score **3 out of 5 points. Disruptive participation will score 0 points.**

. Homework should be challenging and should apply what you have learned in class to provoke critical thinking. Homework is designed to take about **45 minutes per day** and will be started in the classroom with assistance from the teacher. Please make good use of the allocated homework time in the classroom so that questions can be addressed as soon as possible.

BEHAVIOR POLICY / RULES: Our classroom goal is that all students work productively. Therefore, all students are expected to check and modify their own behavior according to the rules below;

1. **No phones (nor other electronic devices), hats, hoodies, gum or sunglasses.**
2. **Place backpacks, purses, and legs under the desks.**
3. **Be honest. Do not copy work.** "When you copy work you are only cheating yourself..."
4. **Everyone has the right to learn in a positive learning environment.** Therefore, **"positive" behavior will be compensated daily with participation points. Remain in seats, be attentive, raise your hand and wait for permission** to provide a comment or ask questions. **Do not be disruptive** by shouting answers, talking or getting up from your seat without permission, interrupting a speaker, using inappropriate language, raising your voice, arguing, passing notes or throwing things at others, making noise disrupting others, or not sitting at your desk by the time class starts. **Class disruptions will result in lower participation points, losing the right to be in the room and/or getting an administrative referral.** Nevertheless, **every day all students will start with a clean slate. So please make an effort to check and modify your own behavior. Having a bad day can be easily undone with a good one!**
5. **Unexcused tardiness** will be noted and will detract from accumulated participation points.

HOW TO BE SUCCESSFUL: **Attend class and do homework regularly and on time. Be mindful, respectful, attentive, diligent, organized, proactive, resilient, persistent, happy and nice to others.**

ABSENCE POLICY: All students are responsible for notes and work missed in class during their absence. Students are expected to complete assignments by the date indicated on the calendar posted under my teacher website on tamhigh.org. Missed homework is due on the day returning to class. Missed quizzes or tests due to absence must be made up during tutorial period or by appointment, within 1 day of returning to class. It is YOUR responsibility to schedule it with your teacher. Untaken quizzes or tests will be marked as a zero.

IF YOU NEED HELP: Please be prepared to ask questions during class and/or during tutorial period.

HOW TO CONTACT ME:

The best way to reach Mrs. Portugues Brennan is by e-mail mportuguesbrennan@tamdistrict.org

Due to teaching, I will not be able to answer questions by phone or email between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm. I will do my best to respond to your emails in 24-48 hours (one email per person per day) during weekdays (not weekends).

HAVE A GREAT SEMESTER!!