

AP Calculus AB

Class Requirements and Procedures

Ms. Frisbie, 2009-2010

Welcome back to school! This handout will give you some idea of the course content. You should read it carefully and keep it in your notebook for future reference.

Goals:

My goals for this class are to help you gain a good understanding of calculus and to prepare you to excel on the Advanced Placement Calculus AB exam and, if applicable, the IB Mathematics SL exam in May.

Course Content:

Major topics are listed on the course syllabus, provided separately. We will spend significant time focusing on actual AP Calculus problems from previous examinations. Most of our time after spring break will be spent on review for the AP and IB exams. The class is not an easy one, and you will be most successful if you resolve now to put in the time and effort needed to learn the material.

Materials:

Calculators: A graphing calculator is **essential** for this course, and both exams require its use. TI-nspire calculators are available for classroom use, but you will *not* be allowed to remove them from the room. However, whatever graphing calculator model you currently have will still be fine here. IB exam regulations prohibit calculators that perform algebraic manipulation, like the TI-89 or TI-nspire CAS edition, but those *are* allowed on the AP Calculus exam and the SAT. Calculators with typewriter-style keyboards are prohibited on all of those tests. If you have more questions, ask me. Whatever calculator you choose, label it clearly so it remains your own. It is important that you learn to use your own calculator.

If you won't be able to get a calculator of your own, there is free software that can be used in combination to accomplish much of the work; talk to me about how to do that.

Notebook: You will need a notebook of your own choosing for notes, handouts, and whatever else you choose to keep. It does not have to be used exclusively for this course.

You'll need to have paper, a writing utensil, your notebook, and your textbook in class every day, no excuses.

Grading:

Tests and Quizzes: There will be quizzes to break long units into smaller chunks, as well as ordinary chapter tests. Starting later in the year, you will also have free-response quizzes for which questions will be provided ahead of time; in class, I will randomly select one of the questions for you to answer without notes. After each regular unit test or quiz you take in this class, you will be allowed to take a grade recovery quiz if you are unhappy with your grade. This is different from how I have done things in the past, and I reserve the right to tweak the procedure to make it work better. I will explain much more about this and provide a handout with the rules when I return your first quiz. There is no similar provision for semester exams, free-response quizzes or take-home quizzes; those are one chance only.

Homework and Classwork: Homework and classwork are required, and will be assigned most days. **All assignments will receive a grade.** Each day that an assignment is due, you must have it out on top of your desk as soon as the bell rings. I will come around to check its completion. **All questions must be answered.** If you have no idea how to do a particular problem, you must write a *detailed* explanation of what you do and do not understand about the question. This takes more than a few words. I will be giving more information on this in class. In addition to completion, I will be spot-checking your work for correctness. Most days we will spend some time addressing difficulties you and your classmates have had, but that will be *after* I have checked to see that you worked the problems. You will receive two "late assignment passes" each quarter that you may use at your discretion. These allow you to turn in an assignment for full credit up to one week late. They may not be used on IB portfolio tasks. If I give another assignment on which they cannot be used, I will make sure to tell you at that time. The penalty for late work will be 60% off, and I will

explain how that works when we discuss this in class. Each assignment must include your name, the date, and the section number in the text. If I cannot tell what the assignment is, I cannot grade it (this is especially true of makeup work). Deadlines for makeup work are addressed below.

Assignment Sheets: At the beginning of every quarter you will receive a handout listing the tentative assignments and test dates. They are subject to change, but are usually accurate. Expect an assignment every day.

Showing Work: The AP and IB examinations will require you to show your work, and so do I. You must communicate the mathematics you know. A “bald” answer with no justification does not do that. In general, no work earns no credit and partially correct work earns partial credit. You must show work on all of your assignments and tests. I reserve the right to give little or no credit for answers without work, whether or not they’re right.

Notebooks: You should keep a notebook. If you haven’t done a good job of that before this year, start today! It should include notes you take in class, including vocabulary, formulas, and theorems, and any graded assignments that I return to you which you choose to retain. You may organize your notebook any way you choose. Its contents should help you immensely come review time in the spring.

Makeup: You will usually find the assignment you missed on your assignment sheet. Polk County’s policy for makeup work deadlines is two days plus the length of the absence. If you have special circumstances for a particular absence, talk to me about it. Makeup work should be turned in to the appropriate slot under the shower. Makeup tests must be taken no later than the day before the grade recovery quiz for the unit. Work that was due the day you were absent is due the day you return.

Extra Credit: There may be bonus questions on unit tests, and unused late assignment passes may be turned in for five points each, but no other extra credit will be given.

Web Site:

I have a web site for my courses. The URL is <http://home.earthlink.net/~bhsfrisbie>. On it you will be able to find the current assignment sheet, review worksheets and their worked out answers, and copies of other worksheets as we get to them. There are also lots of math links and some education links. You’ll also find a mail link for me there — the address is BHSFrisbie@earthlink.net.

Classroom Rules:

Follow directions the right way the first time they are given.

You should be aware that I enforce the school’s rules. *I feel strongly that everyone at Bartow High School is deserving of respect. Whether you agree with me or not, I expect you to act as if you do.*

While I realize that you have a demanding course load, I do not intend to share my class time with your other classes. Please do not use the limited time that we have to do assignments for other courses. The only exception to this would be if you have legitimately finished and turned in *all* work that has been assigned and I have given you time to work on your own. You may *not* use your phone for audio or text communication in class; I *will* confiscate it if you do.

You will not be able to learn effectively if you are not prepared for class. Being prepared includes doing the assignments on time, having the appropriate materials for class, and studying. I hope we’ll all have a good time this year, but my priority is to help you learn mathematics.

I am looking forward to teaching you this year. I am available before school every day and after school many days, and I will be glad to give you any extra help you think you need.

Student info form link: <http://tinyurl.com/2whcf8>

Parent info form link: <http://tinyurl.com/398b4j>

You can also find links to these on the course web site.