

PreCalculus 2 Honors Syllabus for Spring Semester 2009

Teachers: Mr. Sullivan.

- 1) Course Content: Texts: our main text will be Analytic Geometry by Fuller & Tarwater (Chapters 1 to 9, but only brief review treatment of Chapters 5 & 6). We will also study the topic “Limits” and other selected topics depending on time at the end of the semester. Additional study may include a review of material from previous courses to support work for physics, calculus and SAT & SAT II testing.
- 2) Contact for parent/guardians: The best way for your parents to contact your teachers is via email (students may email as well): ksulliv2@muse.sfusd.edu. For phone contact, call the main office number, 759-2730, and leave a note for Mr. Sullivan to call back. (Leave number(s) and a choice of acceptable times to call.)
- 3) Classroom organization: We work in assigned groups of 3 or 4. Do not leave your group to work with another student or another group. Groups will change throughout the semester. If you have significant reason to be in a particular part of the room, let me know (e.g., poor eyesight, poor hearing, etc.) On a normal class day, if the desks of your group are not physically arranged to be together, please move them, but avoid arranging desks so that you cannot see the front of the room. Please, don't listen to music during the time you are given to work on an assignment in class; it does a lot to reduce the easy exchange among students working together in a group.
- 4) Grading: Grades are based on tests with an adjustment for homework. A grade is determined for each unit of material (often a unit is a chapter.) A “unit” consists of a test and homework (details below.) The average of the unit scores will determine a grade that will count for **85%** of the course grade with **15%** coming from the final exam, a comprehensive exam.
 - i) Tests are the important grade determining factor. Active participation, doing the homework thoroughly, getting questions answered, troubleshooting where you get stuck and practicing on assignments are what makes for good test scores.
 - ii) Pop quizzes may occur. They will be used for consideration in borderline grade situations. They provide evidence of a students making an effort to stay current with material on a daily basis.
 - iii) Homework for a section of tested material is collected the day of a test, before the test (so have it ready when you come in!) The homework can add up to 5% to the score on an individual test (to a maximum possible score of 100%). Homework must show detailed work. When problems are done in class, students should correct or expand their homework.
 - iv) Participation and making a demonstrated effort may also influence close, borderline grades. Students strengthen or weaken a group's effectiveness and this is based on several factors.
 - (1) Group participation: Students have a responsibility to make their groups effective learning communities. Students should ask each other for help on assignments and also look to being enthusiastic about helping when they can. Neither relatively strong nor weak students should isolate themselves from their group.
 - (2) Being prepared (having materials and having completed assignments in a timely manner) is an important part of participation. It is also an important part of making the class work, both for you and for the class as a whole.
 - (3) Student participation includes making consistent constructive use of in-class time for math and arriving to class on time and working (on math) through the end of the class period.
 - (4) Another aspect of participation is showing a willingness to adjust your effort to the difficulty of the material. Some material is harder, some easier.

Note: changes to the above structure of organization and graded material may be made as needed!

Per school/district policies, missed work from excused absences (especially tests) must be made up promptly. Tests missed for unexcused absences cannot be made up! If you are absent for a test it is important that you take the initiative to make up missed work and schedule a makeup test for an excused absence.

- 5) Required materials: paper & pencil, graph paper, a “scientific calculator” with the functions log, ln, powers, sin, cos, tan, \sin^{-1} , \cos^{-1} , \tan^{-1} .