

Precalculus Syllabus

Course: Precalculus

Instructor: Moses, S.

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Tutorial: MWF during B lunch of Eagle Hour

What do I learn in this course?

Precalculus is the skill preparation for Calculus. Half of the course reviews Algebra to ensure you can simplify, solve, and graph any kind of algebraic function. The other half trains you to simplify, solve, graph, and apply trigonometric functions.

How do I take action toward success in this course?

On a positive note, you are responsible for your learning! I strive to give you clear examples, and to only assign practice for which examples have been given. I also provide you with a variety of resources for learning, and encouragement to collaborate with peers. But ultimately it is your responsibility to use these resources, and to seek help immediately when needed. Please stay alert to due dates in Canvas.

You can do this! Learning happens when you DO the math in your own hands. Watching and listening to the coach helps some; but you come to own the skill when you yourself practice repeatedly. Someone else doing the math is not going to ultimately give you the skill.

Take notes; be encouraged to short-term repeat examples until you can repeat the problem yourself, without looking. This takes more time in the moment, but may save time overall. You should have nothing to learn the day before a test because you practiced incrementally each day.

I find that I deceive myself if because it made sense when I watched someone else explain a problem I think I've got it; later, I find I cannot start the problem. I need to not believe I've got it because it made sense when someone else did it, but to IMMEDIATELY repeat the process in my own hands.

You are encouraged to collaborate with classmates on classwork and homework. Verbalize the process up to where you cannot explain it because you are uncertain, and ask a question there. Ask me questions during class; come to tutorial as needed. Do not worry what someone else thinks, or what you look like, by asking questions: mess up boldly and don't worry about appearances as you diligently pursue mastery.

How am I graded?

Grading, and practice assigned, is designed to serve you by accountability promoting learning.

Semester averages are $40\% \text{ quarter1} + 40\% \text{ quarter2} + 20\% \text{ final exam} = 100\% \text{ grade}$

Each quarter is weighted 40% daily and 60% major grades.

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Daily grades include poppers and homework. Major grades are tests.

Below is a typical set of unit grades in Skyward, where “HW” is homework and “P” is popper.

Unit 1	HW1.1	HW1.3	HW1.5	P1.1	P1.2	Test1
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What is a popper?

Poppers are short checks for understanding given solely in-class. If you are absent or fail a popper, there is no re-popping, but you have an opportunity to replace that grade as follows: I keep the top half of all popper grades in each unit. For example, if a typical unit has eight poppers, that means there will be four slots in the gradebook. After they fill on the first four, any of the next four which are better replace a lower (or add extra points if already all 100!).

What is homework in this class?

Homework is in MathXL. You may collaborate, but no apps may be used. The point is for you to learn from it. To create a MathXL account,

- 1) Go to www.mathxlforschool.com
- 2) Register as a student; use access code HSMXL-KAROO-SALIC-PAEAN-LAPIS-FAKES
- 3) The teacher-specific course ID is [XL0A-Z11F-101Z-7NU3](#)

On tests and homework there is an opportunity to repeat to a 70 grade.

Expectations:

- 1) Be honest; do your work with integrity.
- 2) Be respectful in speech and actions in all team interactions.
- 3) Keep class time for class work.

All school behavioral policies apply.

Especially in the context of electronic coursework, opportunities abound to get answers from websites or e-sources without working the problem yourself: don't do this. **Do not use any app or device that does the math for you on any graded submission; this is dishonest.** This includes using a calculator on graded work for which one is not explicitly instructed.

If you find you are tempted to cheat, or conclude that is your only option for grade success, (a) don't cheat; the honest 30 really is better than the dishonest 90; (b) this may not be the time to take this class: you either do not have interest, nor time, nor the prior skill set, to study appropriately for honest success in the course. Please talk to me or a counselor about options; there is always a right way out of a situation.

I am delighted to walk through Precalculus with you: let's go!