AP Calculus BC
High School Course Syllabus, Mr. Felling, 2025-2026

Contact Information / Office Hours

Contact Info:
Email: sfelling@tuhsd.k12.az.us or sfelling@tempeunion.org (both forward to same account).
Phone: (480) 706-7900 ext. 70556
The best way to contact me is via email, although phone messages work too – I usually respond within a day or two at most - if I don't, try contacting me again, because something happened to your message.

Online information is in our course in Canvas.
I also maintain a mirror of most content on the general internet at: www.mrfelling.com

Office Hours/Tutoring: I work with students in our classroom in C105 both before and after school every school day except after school on Wednesdays (due to early release meetings). No appointment needed, just come to the math office after school!

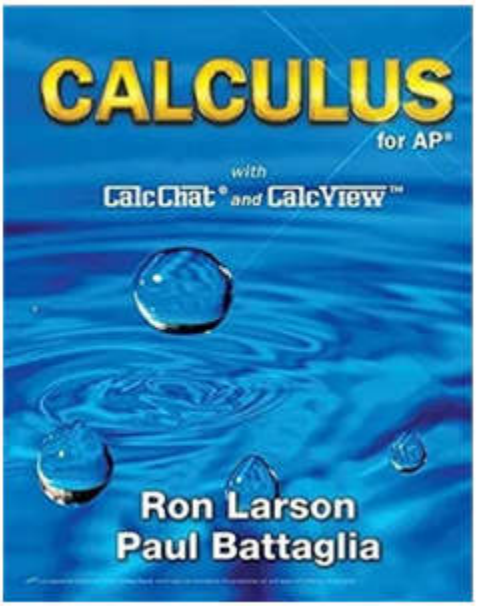
Course Description

MAT510/520 – AP Calculus BC
This course includes a thorough study of limits, continuity, differentiation, integration, infinite series and an introduction to differential equations. Topic concepts and procedures are taught along with many applications. The course will emphasize the importance of mathematics studied to date. After completion of this course, the student may wish to take the AP Calculus BC Advanced Placement Exam.

A more detailed course description listing individual topics is available on my website.

Textbook

The textbook for this course is “Calculus for AP” by Ron Larson and Paul Battaglia.



However, we will be working from my own lesson notes developed from this textbook along with other textbooks and practice work will be from selected problems from a number of sources built into practice packets.

It is not required that you check out the course textbook from the DV bookstore. However, in some cases the textbook includes more details about things like the derivations and proofs of theorems, so if this is of interest to you, I do recommend that you check out the textbook from the DV bookstore at the beginning of the year (the bookstore refers to this as the ‘sky blue calculus book’.

Classroom Policies

Respect is expected – In order to learn, we must have an effective learning environment. We don't usually have behavior issues in honors math classes, but behaviors that disrupt the learning environment will not be tolerated. Learning also requires open communication, and people must feel safe to share their thoughts and ideas. I respect my students, and I expect students to respect me, each other, and themselves.

Attendance: Desert Vista policy is to consider students up to 20 minutes late to class tardy, and students more than 20 minutes late to class absent. Please note: Students with non-school related absences of 11 or more days from a class (excused or unexcused) in a semester may lose course credit for that semester. Please keep absences (including school-related) to a minimum. If you do need to miss class, information about what we did in class and homework is always available at www.mrfelling.com and in Canvas.

Bathroom:

- Students should only use the bathroom for emergencies, please do not assume that you will go to the bathroom during class every day. If a student is using the bathroom frequently, I contact parents to report this. Time away from the classroom makes it difficult to stay caught up and learning.
- Only 1 student can be out of the room at a time, and they must obtain the bathroom pass from me.
- Students must return within a reasonable amount of time.
- Per school-wide policy this year, students must give me their cell phone in order to obtain the bathroom pass from me, and they must sign-in and sign-out noting the times out of the room.

Electronics:

- If I see electronics out at inappropriate times, I may choose to confiscate put the item on the teacher desk at the front of the classroom. Students may reclaim their item from the desk when the bell has rung at the end of class if I have not returned the item before then.
- For frequent offenders – at my discretion, I may opt to keep the item and turn it in to the front office administrators. School policy is to confiscate – and require parents to retrieve at the front office.
- **Please note that, in accordance with school policy, I am not, and the school is not, liable for loss of, or damage to, confiscated items**. To be safe, students should not have electronics out of their backpacks in the classroom unless I specifically indicate it is appropriate.

Cheating: - Any communication during or after a test or quiz, or any other form of cheating, may result in penalties up to and including receiving a zero on the entire test or assignment.

How Your Grade is Determined

A letter grade is issued for each semester separately. The 1st semester grade is made up of 40% 1st quarter grade, 40% 2nd quarter grade, and 20% semester final exam. Each quarter's grade is determined by total points in two categories: Assessments (90% of your quarter grade) and Practice Work (10% of your quarter grade).

Grading Scale:
A: 90%-100%
B: 80%-89%
C: 70%-79%
D: 60%-69%
F: 59% or lower

Rounding: For students earning borderline grades (for example, 89.5%) I determine rounding on a case-by-case basis, generally by considering your unit test scores and your score on the final exam.

Grades will be updated on a regular basis (usually every weekend). You can check your grades online using your parent or student login for the Synergy online grade system. If you have questions about your grade, please feel free to email me at any time.

Content Knowledge, 90% of grade

- **Unit Tests**: For each unit, there will be one or more summary tests which cover all major ideas learned in the unit. The expectation is that students will use the various tools provided (classroom lessons, lesson videos, classroom practice examples, homework, etc.) to thoroughly learn the material in a unit by the date of the unit assessment, even if they have missed school days. If you have missed a large number of school days, please contact me well before the date of the test to discuss options.

Effort, 10% of grade

- **Practice (homework)**:
  - Each unit (or portion of a unit ending in a test) there are two practice packets: the Required Practice Packet and the Extra Practice Packet.
  - The Required Practice Packet:
    - We will provide a paper copy of the required packet.
    - It is graded for completion and level-of-effort and counts towards your grade.
    - Problems from the classroom lessons are included as part of the required packet and the expectation is that you are completing these problems

during class as part of the lesson (or, if you are absent, at home after watching the lesson video).
    - Additional problems for homework practice are also included.
    - You should expect to be working on homework daily for this course. It is very important that you don't fall behind – future lessons generally depend upon understanding the previous day's material.
    - The Required Packet for each unit or part of a unit is due on the day of the corresponding Unit Test. Packets submitted late may receive only partial credit.
    - For full credit all, of the problems must be completed, with work shown, in your own handwriting on the provided paper copy. Alternatively, if you prefer to work on a tablet, I will always provide a PDF version of the blank problems for the Required Practice Packet in Canvas and www.mrfelling.com which can download into your tablet. You must still complete the work in your own handwriting with the result saved. If you are using a tablet, you'll need to either print a paper copy to turn in on test day, or email me a PDF file with your work on that day.
    - Answers for the Required Practice Packet problems are posted in Canvas and www.mrfelling.com that show the answer, but no supporting work, so you'll need to come up with your own work for full credit.
- The Extra Practice Packet:
    - Each Required Practice Packet has a matching Extra Practice Packet.
    - The Extra Practice Packet includes additional problems which match the problems in the Required Packet and are numbered similarly (for example, problem #7 in the Required Practice Packet will have at least a problem #7b and may also include a #7c, #7d, etc.)
    - Full solutions with work shown for all problems in the Extra Practice Packet are posted in Canvas and on www.mrfelling.com.
    - The Extra Practice Packet is not collected or checked in any way, so no paper copies are provided. You can find the blank problems for the Extra Practice Packet in Canvas and on www.mrfelling.com
- **Recommended way to practice:**
    - Complete the initial problems in the Required Practice Packet during the lessons in class.
    - At home, work Required Practice Packet problems and check the answers posted in Canvas. If you solved the problem correctly, move on to the next Required Practice Packet problem.
    - If your answer was incorrect, or you were unable to work the problem, then attempt the matching problem from the online Extra Practice Packet and look at the posted full solution with work shown.
    - When you are able to solve the Extra Practice Packet problem successfully, go back and re-work the Required Practice Packet problem.
    - Repeat this to complete all problems in the Required Practice Packet.

- If there are problems you still do not fully understand, note these so that you can ask about them in class or during before/after school tutoring.

Late work policy: Late work will be accepted, but will generally not receive full credit.

Extra Credit Opportunities: For Rio Salado college credit classes at DV, we follow Rio Salado's policy that the student's grade must be a reflection of the degree of math understanding and not be artificially boosted by extra credit, so this course includes no extra credit.

Projects/AP Review: We may include some combination of projects or various small individual or group practice work which reviews the entire course, especially in 4th quarter when the focus is on entire course review and prepping for the AP Calculus BC and course Final exams. These graded assignments/activities may count as either assessments or as practice work.

Absences, Makeup and Retakes Policy

The goal of this class is to guide students toward a complete mastery of course material. This is done by making incremental progress steadily throughout the course - much of the later material depends upon mastery of the previous course material. **It is very important that students attend class. New material lessons or very important practice work happens every day.**

If you miss class, that class lesson is no longer available to you so you will need to find alternate ways to learn the material: watch the lesson video (available for most lessons), read the textbook, review online lecture notes, ask other students in class for help, etc. Note that you are still responsible for knowing the material, even if you miss class. You need to watch the lesson video, and attempt the homework to stay caught up as best you can. This is a very fast-paced class, especially in the beginning of the year when we are mainly reviewing material taught previously in AP Calculus AB, and getting too far behind can make it very difficult to learn the newer material.

Our makeup and retake policy aims to encourage students to stay caught up at all times because this is so critical to overall success in the class:

Retakes: In accordance with Rio Salado policy and Desert Vista Math Department policy for college credit classes, there are no retakes for any assessments in this course.

Makeups: Tests must be taken by the date of the test except in very exceptional circumstances. In college, if you know that you cannot attend on a test day, you usually have to make arrangements with the professor to take the test early - please notify me as soon as possible if you know you have to miss a test so we can make arrangements for you to take an alternate version of the test at a different time.

If we detect that a pattern is developing where students are intentionally missing class on test days in order to learn about the test questions from friends or to gain additional preparation time, we may require students taking the test at a later date to take an alternative, slightly more difficult version of the test. It is always in your best interest to take the unit tests on the scheduled test day, if at all possible.

Keys to Success in this Course

Class Notes: Lessons parallel the topics covered in our textbook, but I usually explain things in alternative ways. On Canvas and www.mrfelling.com, I provide PDFs of printable 'blank class notes' for each unit. We do need to spend some time in 'lecture mode' but to minimize time spent in lecture so you can spend more time practicing during class, printing your blank class notes ahead of time will greatly speed your note-taking. Alternatively, you may choose to take your own, more abbreviated, notes. Class notes are not graded, but I highly recommend saving all class notes for the course, and bringing them every day for use during practice.

Calculators: Calculators are required for this class. We start using them them early in the course, and you will need them every day, including on some of the tests.
Recommended models: The Ti-84 family of calculators are highly recommended. All class examples will be done using a Ti-84plus. You can choose other calculators, but you are responsible for learning how to use them on your own. We teach how to use the Ti-84. We do not use the additional functionality of Ti-89, Ti-86, or Ti-Inspire and these calculators have different (and more complicated) user interfaces, so if you are buying a calculator for this course, we recommend the Ti-84plus.

Supplies:

- Pencil w/eraser.
- Graphing Calculator.
- The current Unit Required Practice Packet.
- Paper – any kind.
- Class notes for the course to date or your own note-taking materials.

Please bring your calculator and all other supplies with you to class every day.

Use the online schedule to stay caught up: Please use Canvas or the www.mrfelling.com website to find the latest information on homework, upcoming tests and assignments. Our class home page always displays the current week's schedule and homework. For previous or future weeks' homework assignments please find the unit calendars posted in Canvas in the unit modules.

I am looking forward to exploring this important and useful area of mathematics with you!
- Mr. Felling