

Honors Algebra II Syllabus

Room405

Mr. Salyer

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Overview: This class is designed for juniors intending to pursue degrees in college that require advanced studies in mathematics. It is designed not only to cover the content necessary to prepare students but also to help students to develop the skills necessary to succeed in advanced mathematics courses in college. The focus of the assessment in this class will be the same as in college courses i.e. the **long-term** retention of knowledge and skills. Just as in a college course where there may be only a midterm and final exam to calculate a student's grade, only test scores will count towards the grade in this course. If you do not have a strong background in the fundamentals of algebra, if you lack the maturity to assume the responsibility of daily study without the reward of a grade, if you have not developed the ability to retain skills and knowledge for the long term, or if you are unable to demonstrate your true abilities on a few tests and exams, **then this is not the course for you. You should transfer to regular Algebra II and Trigonometry immediately before your GPA suffers.**

Materials: **When I permit you to use a calculator***, I will provide you with one. If you wish to purchase the same model that you will use in class it is a TI-30IIs

Grading: Your grade will be calculated by using these weighted averages.

Quarter Grade	
Quarter Final	60%
Tests	30%
Participation	10%

Semester Grade	
1 st (3 rd) Quarter Grade	40%
2 nd (4 th) Quarter Grade	40%
Semester Exam Grade	20%

Year Grade	
1 st Semester Grade	50%
2 nd Semester Grade	50%

Exams & Tests: All of the exams and tests in this class are cumulative. The final exam covers all of the material you learn from August to June. The semester exam covers all of the material from August to December. The quarter exams cover all of the material from August to end of that quarter, they will take more than one class period to complete and they usually occur **before** the last scheduled day of the quarter so pay attention to the calendar! Chapter tests focus primarily on the types of problems found in that chapter. The problems you have been doing on your homework will appear again and again on your tests and exams with different values. During an exam or test you must remain silent for the entire period. You may only work on the exam or test being given during that period and nothing else. Anything that I cannot read will be wrong. I will keep all of your tests and exams. You may go over them with me anytime after school when I am in my classroom.

MEP Students & Absences: Only MEP students will be allowed to have extended time. MEP students must take the entire test after school on the test day and must arrange this with me no later than the day before the test. If you are absent for a test, you must make up the missed test or exam after school on the day that you return. Exceptions will be made for extended absence, but only if you talk to me the morning that you return. If you do not show up after school and you have not spoken to me to make other arrangements, then you will receive a zero on your test.

Quizzes: You usually will be given a quiz on the first day of each week. The problems on this quiz will come from the homework and class work from the previous week. These quizzes will be graded but they do not count towards your grade they are simply a means by which you and I can keep track of your progress before you take a test. Even though the grade does not count I suggest you study for these quizzes as you would any test since it is in essence a chance to practice test questions without the consequences of damaging your grade with a poor performance.

Homework: You are responsible for being able to do any and all problems in this book. Homework will not be collected or graded; however, you will have an opportunity to ask questions about the homework the next day in class. If you are having real difficulties completing your assignments in a reasonable amount of time then I expect you to take the initiative to see me immediately. How many problems you choose to do is entirely your decision. Keep all of this work in a notebook because if you are having difficulty in my class the first thing I will ask to see is your homework. If you have none to show me then I will not waste my time helping you because you haven't lived up to your daily responsibilities. Make sure that you do enough to ensure a good performance on the tests and exams because I model my questions on the ones found in the book. Your homework is designed for you to have practice in the knowledge and skills that I want you to apply on your tests and exams. There will be no surprises on the tests and exams if you have done all of your homework.

Participation: You will start each quarter with 100 points. Anytime you engage in inappropriate behavior in my class or do not participate fully in the class then I will lower this grade. Once points have been taken from this grade they cannot be regained. If you are so obstinate in your behavior that you use up all of these points then I will deduct points from the other parts of your grade. The classroom rules provide some but not all of the instances that can result in points being taken away. You are held responsible for the choices you make. How I treat you does not depend upon how I treat others in the class.

Tutoring: I arrive early at school (between 6:30 and 7:00) but generally this is when I get work done for the school or for other faculty members; however, **IF I AM FREE** I will gladly help you. I am available to help you after school unless there is some other school function that I am required to attend. On the days that I am in my classroom I will be available from 3:05-4:00; when I am on duty in the Walter Commons I will be available from 3:05 –5:00. I will post a schedule of where I will be each day after the school year begins. You may also try to reach me at home **no later than 8:00 Monday-Thursday** at 885-8352. If you choose to e-mail me at night do not expect an immediate reply. I generally check my mail the first thing in the morning when I arrive at school and I do not check it on weekends. When you come to me for tutoring, you should bring the same materials that you would have for class. Mr. Pharion will also be establishing tutoring sessions with National Honor Society students, and you will need to contact him for more information on this program.

Honors Algebra II Study Suggestions:

For class:

- Print out the notes for the chapter ahead of time from the internet.
- Read through the notes and the section in the book a day before the lecture.
- Bring your print-out to class with you. As I am lecturing have your textbook open and your print-out in front of you. Write down anything I say or put up on the board that is not in either the textbook or the print-out that makes them easier to understand. This is called annotating your notes.
- When we are working on problems in class, do the problem in your notebook. Make sure you write out all of the steps and any quick notes to help you remember what to do or short cuts you can take. Check your answer with the answer given in class. If your answer is different, raise your hand to find out what you have done wrong and how to correct your mistake.

At Home:

- Using your textbook, your annotated print-outs, and your notebook full of examples make an honest attempt to complete all of your homework problems. At the very least you could indicate what rules from the notes apply or which examples you think you should be using even if you have no idea of how to complete the problem. In this way you will show me that you have made an effort to complete the problem.
- Highlight in your notebook the problems you had trouble completing so that you can ask me how to do them the next day in class, or come to see me before or after school for help.

Before Quizzes and Tests:

- Work through the review problems. You should have plenty of examples of how they are correctly done in your notebook from the work we have done in class each day.
- Study with a reliable friend who takes good notes. He may understand problems that you don't and vice-versa.
- If you have any problems try to get to school early so that you can come to see me before school to get last minute help.

* If I catch you playing calculator games I will confiscate your calculator for a short period of time. If it becomes a problem a second time I will keep your calculator for the entire year.

Classroom Rules

1. You are at all times to behave as a St. Charles gentleman and follow all of the school rules in The Student Handbook.
2. You must be quietly sitting in your seat when the bell rings. If you are not then you will be marked tardy and your participation grade will be lowered by 5 points.
3. You will have only the materials necessary for my class at your desk. I will confiscate anything else and lower your participation grade by 10 points.
4. You are to participate in all activities in this class. That means listening, taking notes, solving problems, asking or answering questions, and working individually when appropriate. If you are not an active participant in this class then I will lower your participation grade by 10 points each time.
5. You are responsible for your own behavior. The punishment you receive does not depend upon the actions of anyone else in the class but you.
6. A pattern of disruptive behavior will result not only in a significantly lower participation grade but also a 2 hour detention to be served at my convenience not yours.
7. You are not to touch anything on/in my desk, cabinets or podium without my explicit directions. You may not be behind my desk or at my computer. If you break either of these simple rules, then you will fail the class for the quarter.
8. You are not to touch any of the projection equipment in the room.
9. You are not to write on the boards unless given permission by me.
10. You are not to touch the windows, blinds or fans.