

# AP CALCULUS BC 2011-2012

## COURSE CONTRACT

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**Instructor:** Andrew J. Spieker

**E-mail:** delve-calcbc-teachers@mit.edu

**Location:** TBA

**Course Time:** Sundays from 10:00 to 3:00

**Text:** Calculus of a Single Variable by Larson et al.

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**Introduction to the course contract:** The purpose of the course contract is to establish the expectations—not just my expectations of you, but your expectations of me.

**Expectations:** It is important that you understand my expectations of you, and that you understand what you can expect from me. If at any time these expectations are unclear, please do not hesitate to ask questions via e-mail, before, or after class.

My expectations of you:

- You should have taken and mastered ( $\geq$  B on average) algebra, geometry, and precalculus.
- You should show up to class on time, ready to learn.
- You should have a TI-83 or a TI-84 calculator (+ or not).
- You should have due assignments ready at the beginning of class on the due date indicated.
- You should speak if you are having trouble.
- You should be polite/respectful to each other, me, the classroom, and the property.
- You should actively participate in class.
- You should be SAFE in the classroom. Use common sense, yes?

What you can expect from me:

- You can expect me to show up to class, on time, prepared to teach.
- You can expect me to grade assignments in a timely fashion; generally speaking, you will never have to wait more than one class period to have it back. You can also expect me to be willing to discuss a grade with you before and after class, or via e-mail.
- You can expect me to be willing to answer your questions about things you don't understand in class. If they lead to topics that are too far-deviating from the material, I will encourage you to continue that discussion at another time (after class, later in the course, etc.)
- You can expect me to be polite and respectful to you, to the classroom, and to the property.
- You can expect me to do what I can to make you feel safe in the classroom. If at any point you have concerns, PLEASE see me. If there is an issue you feel you cannot discuss with me, the next step would be to contact the Delve directors.

**Being and staying a part of the course:** For various reasons, some students in the past have discontinued the course about halfway through the year. With that said, it is important that you understand that when you are part of this course, it is expected that you will be staying here until May. I will work **with** you, not against you, in trying to make that work. Therefore, I have a couple of common situations and some solutions (alternatives to dropping the class) on the next page:

- Deciding after the first semester to take the AB exam instead: My recommendation is will vary depending on when you decide to do this. If you decide this is a good idea in October, I would recommend you switch to the AB class; if you decide this in March, it is better to stay in BC.

- Having too much homework for other classes: This tends not to be the most time-consuming course for outside work. No term papers, or extensive projects; the pace is fairly regular. So, if another class is becoming overwhelming and preventing you from completing work for this class, it could be a mistake to drop this class—just discuss with me and we can plan a “catch-up” schedule. Things do get stressful, but things also calm down too!

Please note that the methods described above are suggestions only. They all require PRIOR approval by me; don't just start not doing homework and expect that I'll figure out you aren't interested in taking the BC exam. The key here is to keep the lines of communication open. There are so many alternatives to dropping the course, and I can work with you to help make things happen!

**Grades and Assignments:** Grades are not the absolute most important part of the course. Sometimes it can feel that way when you get a grade for everything you do in the class. I will therefore frequently give you non-numerical feedback, such as comments and questions. This will be more common on homework assignments. In this course, you will be assessed in the following ways:

Homework – For each unit, you will receive a “homework sheet” with problems from the book, and a series of additional problems which are written by me, are from another source, or are from a previous AP exam. On the homework sheet, it will be indicated which problems are to be graded thoroughly and which problems are to be graded just for completeness. Problems graded thoroughly will constitute half of a homework's grade and problems graded for completeness will constitute the other half.

Tests/Quizzes – There will be a test or quiz after each unit, each varying in length and difficulty. Occasionally there will be more than one test or quiz in a unit—this will tend to happen in the longer units. Tests and quizzes will always be announced ahead of time. Expect tests to be under an hour long. There will be no curving of test and quiz scores. Don't ask about it, because it's not going to happen.

Final Exam: There will be one cumulative exam each semester; it may be a take-home exam, an in class exam, or a combination of both. You will be given plenty of notice. Regardless, it will be scored in the same fashion as a regular AP exam, which is on a scale—not a regular percentage.

Attendance & Participation: Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class period and will be factored into the grade. The attendance percentage is simply the ratio of present days to total days of class.

A Final Semester Grade: Your final grade for the first semester will be determined by the following weighting scale: Tests/Quizzes – 45%; Final Exam – 25%; Homework – 20%; Attendance and Participation – 10%

Your letter grade will be determined by a scale no harsher than the standard grading scale, which is as follows:

<b>Letter:</b>	F	D-	D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A
<b>%</b>	< 59	< 63	< 67	< 70	< 73	< 77	< 80	< 83	< 87	< 90	< 93	≥ 93

Depending on how this policy works, the policy for the second semester may or may not be the same. I will, however, reserve the right to change the weighting system described above or the letter grade system at any time during the year for any reason, on the condition that your average obtained from that system is no worse than that obtained with this weighting system on this scale. Since I don't want to deal with computing several grades and choosing the right one, you can basically assume that this won't happen.

Very often, students request to receive a grade for the course to submit to their school. This is fine by me, and I would be happy to do whatever necessary to help make that happen. Just let me know at least a couple of weeks in advance what you need from me.

**Other general policies:**

Attendance: Please do not miss class. Each class period amounts to a whole week of material; consequently, students are expected to have a justifiable reason to not be in class.

Late Work: Late homework will only be accepted under justifiable circumstances, including but not limited to: religious observance, moderate to severe illness (not like, mild seasonal allergies), school-related activities with prior notice. Alternatives to handing in homework late that are acceptable include scanning and e-mailing, typing and e-mailing, giving to a friend in class to hand in.

Office Hours and Extra Help: There are no physical office hours—I don't have an actual office. However, depending on student interest, there may be virtual office hours or something like that. I will make myself available as early as 9:30 and as late as 4:00 if you give me advance notice for coming in early and/or staying late for extra help.

Disabilities and Accommodations: If you need some sort of accommodation, I **will** make appropriate adjustments for you, whatever the extent. For example, if you are color-blind, I won't use colors on the board that you can't see. If you have a hard time seeing or hearing, and there is a certain part of the room that suits you better, just let me know! If you are bringing in your own food, that's fine, but out of respect for others, you may not bring in anything that has common allergens like nuts.

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By signing, you confirm that you have read the course contract, understand the requirements for the course. You agree that you will follow the rules to the best of your ability, and that you will, to the best of your ability, stay enrolled for the entire duration of the course. By signing, I confirm that I have given you what I consider to be a fair course contract; I agree to meet the expectations, and will be willing to discuss this contract with you if you have any questions.

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(Last, First)

(Date)

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Andrew J. Spieker,  
Course Coordinator/Instructor

(Date)

**Advanced Placement Calculus BC**  
**Massachusetts Institute of Technology**  
**Delve 2011-2012 Mid-Semester Grade Report**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Task Type</b>	<b>Task Name</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Out of</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>% of Grade</b>
Attendance	Attendance		15		10.0
Homework	Unit 1 Homework		60		3.0
Test/Quiz	Unit 1 Test		50		10.0
Homework	Unit 2 Homework I		50		2.5
Homework	Unit 2 Homework II		70		3.5
Test/Quiz	Unit 2 Test		60		12.0
Homework	Unit 3 Homework		60		3.0
Test/Quiz	Unit 3 Quiz		40		8.0
Homework	Unit 4 Homework		40		2.0
Test/Quiz	Unit 4 Quiz		25		5.0
Homework	Unit 5 Homework I		60		3.0
Homework	Unit 5 Homework II		60		3.0
Test/Quiz	Unit 5 Test		50		10.0
Exam	Final Exam		100		25.0

**SUMMARY**

<b>Type</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Weight</b>
Attendance Average		10%
Homework Average		20%
Test/Quiz Average		45%
Final Exam		25%