

## **AP BIOLOGY SYLLABUS**

Instructor: Jennifer Workman

Textbook: Biology (Eighth Edition) by Campbell and Reece

### **COURSE OVERVIEW**

The Advanced Placement Biology curriculum is equivalent to a college course usually taken by biology majors during their first year of college. The course differs significantly from a first year high school biology course with respect to the kind of textbook used, the range and depth of topics covered, the kind of laboratory work done by students, and the time and effort required by the students. The primary emphasis of the course is on developing an understanding of concepts; a grasp of science as a process rather than as an accumulation of facts; personal experience in scientific inquiry; recognition of unifying themes that integrate the major topics of biology; and the application of biological knowledge and critical thinking to environmental and social concerns.

Topics covered in this course include chemistry of life, cells and cellular energetic, heredity, molecular genetics, evolution, diversity of organisms, structure and function of both plants and animals, and ecology. The course is broken down into three areas of study: 25% molecules and cells, 25% genetics and evolution, and 50% organisms and populations. In addition, students will conduct all twelve of the College Board AP Biology laboratories.

### **EXPECTATIONS**

AP Biology is both a hard and a fun course. How could the science of life NOT be fun? This is a college course and you will be held to high expectations and mature responsibilities just like a college freshman taking Introductory Biology.

### **TEAM WORK**

I view this course as a team effort. While each person must complete and hand in their own work, study groups and cooperative effort are strongly encouraged. You never learn something as well as when you have to explain it to someone else.

### **ATTENDANCE**

Students are expected to be on time to class every day. If you have an unexcused absence from class, you will receive no credit for the activities of that day. If you miss an exam, you will be required to take an alternate exam. All make up exams will consist of essay questions. Exams and labs must be made up before or after school. Due to the nature of this course, I will not accept late work if you were in class that day.

## REQUIRED MATERIALS

- 3-ring binder with pocketed dividers
- Standard size, loose leaf notebook paper
- Pencils with erasers
- Colored pencils
- Highlighters (2 colors)
- Folder with 2 pockets for Lab Reports
- Graph paper
- Blue or black ink pens
- Access to the internet & a word processor such as MS Word
- Calculator
- Good collegiate level dictionary

## GRADING

Weighted grades will be determined each nine weeks as follows:

Exams (Unit tests, projects, etc.)	67%
Labs and Daily Work	33%

This course is an AP course and a weighted grade of 10% will be added to your final score. To calculate this score, multiply your final grade by 1.1

## LABS

AP Biology has 12 recommended lab activities. We complete these and additional labs through College Board labs, supplemental labs, computer simulations, and field trips. Lab assignments will be weighted and count 33% of each nine weeks grade. Labs will be returned for you to review.

## HOMEWORK

Textbook Reading: Very important! Read the book nightly, stay up-to-date to be prepared.

## EXAMS

Exams are composed of AP questions and AP-style exam questions as well as AP-style essays. Exam questions will be 60% multiple choice and 40% essay to mirror the AP Exam.

## EXTRA HELP

I am available for extra help after school EVERY DAY. Please sign up in the appropriate notebook on my desk if you plan to attend tutoring at least one (1) day in advance, so that I may plan my schedule accordingly. Come prepared with specific questions, problems, or labs.

## END OF YEAR

The course will be completed by the end of March/beginning of April so that you will have a chance to review during the month of April. The AP Exam is scheduled for May 11 at 8:00am.

Please feel free to contact me anytime if I can be of assistance to you!

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