

AP BIOLOGY SYLLABUS

Instructor's Information

Course: Advance Placement Biology

Instructor: Mr. Boss

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Textbook

Biology AP Edition - Campbell & Reece (8th Edition)

Course Description

AP Biology is a year-long course designed for high school students as an opportunity to earn AP credit on their high school transcript, as well as placement credit for an introductory college-level science course. This course is aligned to the College Board AP Biology Curriculum Framework and is based on four Big Ideas, which encompass core scientific principles, theories, and processes that cut across traditional boundaries and provide a broad way of thinking about living organisms and biological systems. Twenty-five percent of instructional time is devoted to hands-on laboratory work with an emphasis on inquiry-based investigations. Investigations require students to ask questions, make observations and predictions, design experiments, analyze data, and construct arguments in a collaborative setting, where they direct and monitor their progress. This course is designed to prepare students for the Biology College Board Advanced Placement Exam.

As your instructor during this time of distance learning, I will do my best to provide you with the educational opportunities you will need to prepare yourself for the 2021 AP Biology Exam. That said, this is an AP level course and I am only one variable in the equation of your academic success. You will need to come prepared and ready to engage in all Zoom classes (synchronous instruction), complete assignments on time (asynchronous instruction), and engage with outside materials (Kahn academy, bozeman biology, textbook, etc.) to ensure you have mastered the material. I am grateful for the opportunity to be your instructor. I am looking forward to working with each of you this school year and exploring the dynamic world in which we live.

Class Expectations:

1. **Preparedness:** Come to class prepared to learn. This includes bringing all required materials and having completed all required assignments and readings.
2. **Excellence:** As a high school student, you should all be striving for excellence on every assignment; as such, neatness, spelling, grammar, etc. will be weighted on all assignments. If standards are not met, a grade deduction will be given or a rewrite will be required. This includes homework.
3. **Notebook:** Students must maintain a science notebook and bring it to class each day with the following sections (in this order): warm ups, notes, assignments, labs, tests/quizzes. Students must retain all returned materials in their notebook.
4. **Cell phones:** Any cell phones, or any other electronic devices MUST be turned off and put away in the bin when entering the classroom and it is to remain that way until you are dismissed at the end of the period. Any cell phone in use or in sight of me during instructional time will be confiscated and sent to the office.
5. **Timeliness:** It is expected that you will arrive for class on time and be seated in your seat when the tardy bell rings. If you are not in your seat when the tardy bell rings, you will be marked tardy. All tardies are reported to attendance.
6. **Cheating:** All of us at SCY High School take cheating (including plagiarism) very seriously. There is a distinct difference between working together and copying. If you are caught copying or turn in homework or a lab write-up that is identical to another student, then the two of you will receive a zero and your parents will be notified. If you are caught cheating on a test or quiz you will receive a zero, a referral to the office, and your parents will be notified. To reiterate, cheating also includes plagiarism.

7. **Absences:** The only valid excuse for being absent on an exam or quiz day is illness. If you are unexpectedly sick on the day of an exam or quiz I expect that you will email me in the morning to notify me and when you return to school you will be expected to make up the test or quiz that day (whether you have my class that day or not). If you will be leaving early due to sports or any other reason you must schedule to take the exam or quiz with me in the morning or at lunch before you leave. If you miss an exam or quiz because of a scheduled event (appointment, sports event, etc.) you will receive a 10% grade reduction when you make it up later. This policy is strictly enforced and is designed to prevent students from gaining an unfair advantage over their classmates by getting extra days to study by intentionally missing an exam or quiz day.
8. **Grading:** Letter grades will be assigned based upon the following scale:
- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| A 90% - 100% | Weighted Scores: |
| B 80% - 89% | Tests/Quizzes: 50% |
| C 70% - 79% | Labs: 25% |
| D 60% - 69% | Assignments: 25% |
| F 59% and below | |

Assignments will include classwork and homework. All assignments and lab work will be completed in the traditional dark blue or black pen, pencil or typed, unless otherwise specified. All homework, labs, and activities must be turned in on time. If you have an excused absence, the assignment must be turned in the day you return for full credit. Any work turned in late will receive ZERO credit. That includes work left at home, misplaced or lost, as well as work not completed when assigned. For groupwork like labs, all students will complete the write up and one will be graded at random, all students in the group will receive the grade earned by the selected paper. Therefore you should choose your partners wisely, and make sure everyone in the group is doing exemplary work. Printer problems are not an excuse; assignments can be emailed to me at nboss@scyhigh.org.

Please read this syllabus carefully and ask your parent/guardian to read it as well. If you have any questions or need clarification on any point, please ask before you sign it. Your signature indicates that you have a clear picture of what is expected in this class.

Topic Outline for The Year

The AP Biology Curriculum is framed around the AP Biology course and Exam Description Effective Fall 2019 where 4 Big Ideas serve as the foundation of the course and allow student to create meaningful connections among course concepts. There is a set of core concepts called Enduring Understanding, which will be used to guide the AP Biology course curriculum. Below is an outline of the AP Biology Curriculum Big Ideas and the Enduring Understandings topics covered in this course. AP Biology is a rigorous course that demands personal responsibility from the student. In order for students to plan effectively, they are provided with due dates for all major projects, labs and tests. They are strongly encouraged to complete nightly readings and study each day's lecture notes on their own time.

Units	Exam Weighting
Unit 1: Chemistry of Life	8–11%
Unit 2: Cell Structure and Function	10–13%
Unit 3: Cellular Energetics	12–16%
Unit 4: Cell Communication and Cell Cycle	10–15%
Unit 5: Heredity	8–11%
Unit 6: Gene Expression and Regulation	12–16%
Unit 7: Natural Selection	13–20%
Unit 8: Ecology	10–15%

Put this syllabus in your notebook for future reference.

Print Student Name _____

We have read through and discussed:



Mr. Boss' AP Biology Syllabus

We understand that these policies are implemented with the intention of avoiding any time consuming obstacles to teaching so that the time together in class can be devoted to the joy of learning.

Please sign and return this sheet, no later than Friday acknowledging your understanding and commitment to comply with these class policies.



Student signature

Parent signature

Date

Date

The Syllabus will be online for reference. Students are required to keep the syllabus in their binder for the year.