

COURSE SYLLABUS

AP BIOLOGY

Mrs. Ernst

MATERIALS: Students need a small binder with paper, a calculator, and a composition or spiral notebook for labs.

PHILISOPHY

In order to help my students maintain high academic achievement in AP Biology I try to make the class fun and interesting. I do not find it hard to accomplish this because it is so easy to make Biology relevant to daily life. The virtual and hands on science activities implemented throughout all units help keep students focused and interested while helping them understand that science is a process more than an accumulation of facts. My goal is also to help students be prepared for college. I understand the discipline it takes to be successful at the next level, and I try to help AP Biology students develop the organizational skills and habits that will help them be ready for college.

Teaching Strategies:

Students will be given an AP Biology Book, a study guide, and access to online interactive tutorials and study materials. The classroom has a mobile laptop cart align with Vernier probes and software used to collect data and help analyze results. Students will use laptops to collect data, research information, and make lab reports and presentations with Google Suite and/or Microsoft.

COURSE OBJECTIVE

Students are required to understand the major themes integrated throughout the course that are required by the AP Biology Curriculum which include: Science as a process, Evolution, Energy Transfer, Continuity and Change, Relationship of Structure to Function, Regulation, Interdependence in Nature, and Science, Technology and Society.

COURSE OVERVIEW

Extra time for review, tutoring, finishing labs and reviewing for the AP Biology Exam will be given during lunch, before school, and after school. This is a lab science class and students will complete several labs including all labs in the AP Biology Lab Manual. It is the students' responsibility to make up labs, missed tests, and missed quizzes before/ after school or during lunch. Students will maintain a notebook and a lab journal that will help them for the AP Biology Exam in which all students will be encouraged to take. The course textbook is the eighth edition of Life: The Science of Biology by Sadava, Heller, Orians, Purves, and Hillis.

LAB COMPONENT

Labs will be completed during class time, unless students are absent from class. It is then the students responsibility to schedule a time to make up the lab before/ after school or at lunch. Pre- lab discussions and assignments will be implemented. All students must complete the pre- lab activity prior to the lab. Labs will include instruction, assignments, and lab reports. All labs in the AP Biology Manual will be covered in this course. Students will keep lab journals and complete lab reports using steps of the scientific method. The will collect and analyze data, draw conclusion to be used for discussions and presentations so students will understand that science is a process rather than an accumulation of facts.

OTHER COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To apply biological knowledge and critical thinking to environmental and social concerns.
- To demonstrate laboratory techniques and develop problem solving skills by gathering and interpreting data in order to solve scientific problems.
- To acquire an understanding of the major biological processes.
- To recognize evolutionary relationships among living organisms.

RULES AND WORK POLICY

This is a college level course, so appropriate behavior is required.

- Students need to be disciplined, not waste time and should spend a minimum of one hour every night studying, reading, and doing homework.
- Students should do all reading assignments and pre- lab questions.
- Homework is designed to make it easier to study. **NO HOMEWORK WILL BE ACCEPTED LATE**, so everyone should always do homework.
- Students are responsible for completing an individual research paper. Don't waste time it will not be able to be completed in a few days.
- Any form of plagiarism or cheating will result in 0 points for the assignment. This includes giving someone else your work or using someone's work.
- Some material might not be covered during class time. Students are responsible for learning all topics listed on the syllabus.

CONTACT INFO

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RULES AND WORK POLICY CONT.

- It is the students are responsible for completing assignments and make up tests/quizzes.
- Make up work will be done during tutoring time (before/after school and/or during lunch).
- **DO NOT** get to far behind because it is hard to catch up. If you are having problems come to tutoring, do not wait for the teacher to ask you to come.
- Students need to turn in all labs on time.
 - Some labs will not be able to be made up due to perishable items with a time limit.
 - Students will be docked ten percent for each day a lab report/ assignment is overdue.
- Class starts when the bell rings, so be ready to work! We have a lot of material to cover, but if you come prepared and ready to learn you will be amazed at how much you will learn and the fun you will have!

GRADE POLICY

NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED ON HOMEWORK AND DAILY ASSIGNMENTS. POINTS WILL BE TAKEN OFF EACH DAY ON MAJOR PROJECTS OR ALB REPORTS THAT ARE OVERDUE.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Points</u>
Test	100
Quizzes	15-25
Assignments	5-15
Lab	25-50
Project	20-30
Research Paper	100

*Official grade will be posted in Aeries.

**There will be NO extra credit given.

FORMAT

Students will complete reading assignments and everyday students will complete a warm up immediately when entering class. The teacher will lecture using slides, pictures, tables, videos, and demonstrations while students take notes that will be turned in at a later date (binder check). Periodic homework assignments will be given as an addition to any reading assignments. A student CD will be checked out to each student, and may be asked to complete assignments on the CD. Lab assignments will be given, students will do pre- lab questions, the lab lab will be completed, and a lab report or exercise will be assigned. Students are required to complete self- tests in the Student Study Guide. Tests and quizzes will be given throughout the school year. Research paper(s) will be assigned for chapters that might not be covered during lectures. Students are required to know all information in the Syllabus.