

2023-2024 AP Biology Syllabus

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Course Description

This course focuses on the major biological concepts taught in a first-year college course for biology majors as outlined by the College Board. This course will be divided into the following seven units:

- Unit 1: Ecology
- Unit 2: Introduction & Animal Behavior
- Unit 3: Biochemistry & Cellular Theory
- Unit 4: Metabolism
- Unit 5: Cell Communication & Cell Division
- Unit 6: Genetics & DNA
- Unit 7: Transcription, Translation, and More
- Unit 8: Evolution
- Unit 9: The History of Life & Phylogeny
- Unit 10: Plants & Animals (if time permits)

I am enthusiastically looking forward to an exciting, challenging year. I plan to work with you as your partner and guide you through AP Biology. I hope you will attack this course with a serious, positive, mature, intense attitude. The study of biology should be both fun and fascinating!

Course Goals

1. To provide students with a good college-level introductory biology course. Part of that is fulfilling the time commitment for studying/homework.
2. To prepare students well for standardized tests by helping students acquire the necessary content information and training students in exam strategies and essay writing skills.
3. To help students develop a conceptual framework for modern biology and to help students gain an appreciation of science as a process. The ongoing information explosion in biology makes this goal even more challenging.

Textbook, Online Materials, and School-Issued iPad

The textbook will be used in conjunction with a variety of other instructional tools throughout the year. Students will be responsible for reading assigned textbook chapters and completing the assigned guided readings. Articles, labs, and other resources will supplement the textbook. Most of the resources for AP Biology can be found on www.zunick.com.

Students are required to bring their school-issued iPad to class on a daily basis. Students are not allowed to go to their locker during class. The iPad must be charged daily.

Grading

Marking period grades will be determined primarily by exams, lab reports/posters, guided readings, presentations, and projects. Assignments typically have the following point values:

- Exams = 100 points
- Lab Reports = 50 points
- Lab Report Posters= 33 points
- Guided Readings = 10 points
- Presentations = 15 points
- Projects = 100 points

Marking period grades will be determined as follows:

- Formal Assessments = 70%
- Labs and Assignments = 30%

Make certain that all assignments, reports, and evaluations are completed on time. Late work will only be accepted (with a grade penalty) with prior permission from the teacher. Please note that certain assignments will not be accepted late for any reason.

Each marking period will count equally toward the year grade in AP Biology. Students are REQUIRED to take the AP Biology Exam in May.

Attendance

Students who miss a class for any reason will be responsible for making up all work before the next scheduled class. Students who are absent on the day an assignment is due must email the work to Mr. Zunick by the beginning of the class period. Work submitted after that time will be counted as a late assignment. Students who are absent for any reason on the day of a test or quiz will take a different version of the test or quiz.

There will be many times in which students are required to participate in AP Biology activities before, during, and/or after school hours. These activities include (but are not limited to) labs, lectures, and exams. Attendance at those activities is MANDATORY.

Academic Dishonesty / Rules

Students are expected to do their own work. Any copying of work will result in no credit (a zero) for the assignment for all individuals involved. There are NO EXCEPTIONS to this policy. Please note that it will be nearly impossible for a student to pass for the marking period if he or she receives a “zero” on an exam as a result of cheating. Students who are caught cheating will automatically be withdrawn from the course.

All written reports must be completed using Google Docs and Google Classroom in “real time”. Students are not allowed to complete written work in a different program (for example, Microsoft Word) and then paste or upload the completed document to Google Classroom. All work completed using Google Docs and submitted using Google Classroom has a time stamp. The time stamp for all edits of the assignment must be visible in order for the assignment to be scored. ANY WORK SUBMITTED WITHOUT THE TIME STAMPS WILL BE SCORED AS A ZERO. There are NO EXCEPTIONS to this policy.