

Name _____

Period _____

AP Biology

Date _____

AP BIOLOGY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. 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.

2. TEAM WORK

I view this course as a team effort. While each person needs to 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.

3. ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to be on time to class every day. If you are illegally absent, you will get no credit for the activities of that day. Students must make up exams missed the DAY YOU RETURN and must make up labs during extra-help sessions after school.

4. MATERIALS

- a. large 3-ring notebook (~3 inch) for handouts, notes & labs
- c. blue or black pen and pencil to be brought to class EVERY day
- d. A bound lab notebook will be available for your purchase the first day of class
- e. Textbook: *Biology* (5th Edition) by N. Campbell, J. Reece, L. Mitchell
The textbook may be left at home for your nightly homework.
- f. Review Book: *AP Biology Test Prep* by Holtzclaw and Holtzclaw will be available for your purchase the first day of class

5. WEB SITE

I have built a Web site which supports this course, ExploreBiology.

You can reach it at: <http://www.ExploreBiology.com>

Check the Web site daily for assignments, PowerPoint lectures, and many other resources.

We will also supplement our daily discussion with occasional postings at the class blog: <http://dahsapbiology2010.wordpress.com/>

6. NOTEBOOK ORGANIZATION

We will organize our notebook into sections on the first day of school. You will be given a guide as to what material goes into what section.

7. LABS

We complete many labs and activities throughout the year. Some of them are demonstration or simulation activities and some of them are actual scientific research. **All lab notes and data should be written in your bound lab notebook.**

All labs are due one (1) week after the lab is completed. If you are having an overwhelming time (SATs, college apps, other course workload) speak to me **early**. The absolute last due date for all unit work is the day of the unit exam.

8. HOMEWORK

- a. Textbook Reading: Very Important! Read the book nightly, stay up-to-date and be prepared to ask or answer questions in class. All Chapter Reading Guides are due BEFORE we discuss that chapter in class.

- b. Whether it is expressly assigned or not, you have homework EVERY night in this class. If you do not have a specific assignment then,
1. Review your notes
 2. Begin going over the unit in your review book
 3. Practice exam questions in your textbook and your review book.

9. EXAMS

Exams are composed of AP exam questions and AP-style exam questions as well as AP style Free Response Questions (“essays”). Exam questions will be based on class notes and the textbook. We will NOT review graded exams in class. If you want to improve your grade, you have the option of coming during my free periods (Period 7, 8, and 9) or after school to discuss the exam questions with me: why your wrong answers are wrong and why the right answer is the best answer. This exercise will allow you to earn back 50% of your lost points (therefore an 80 becomes a 90, a 70 becomes and 85, etc.)

10. GRADING

I know this is a challenging course. I like to offer every student the chance to step up to that challenge so you can better prepare for college. But I don't want students to fear hurting their cumulative average and class standing by taking on that challenge. So here is my pledge to you: Keep up with the work, hand your work in on time, actively participate in class discussions and lab exercises, and make a concerted effort to do well on exams, and you will earn top grades in this class no matter what your calculated grade is. But on the other side of the coin, if you do not keep up with the work, you don't hand your work in on time, you don't actively participate in class discussions and lab exercises, and you don't make a concerted effort to do well on exams, then you will get the grade that is merely calculated from your assignments and exams, based on these percentages:

- Exams & Quizzes 35%
- Labs & Lab Reports 35%
- Homework 15%
- Class work & Participation 15%

This 4th Quarter of this class is unique, since much of it occurs after the AP Exam. The 4th Quarter student project is valued at 50% of the quarter grade.

11. EXTRA HELP

I am available for extra help during my free periods (Periods 7, 8, and 9 every day) and after school most days from 2:30-3:30. Please confirm that you plan to attend. Come prepared with specific questions, problems, or labs.

12. END OF YEAR

The course work will be completed by the end of April. You will have a chance to review and all AP Biology students will be given practice exams before the AP Exam.

The 2011 AP Biology Exam is administered on Monday, May 9 at 8am.

After the AP exam you are expected to attend class daily. We will use that time to complete student projects. Our Post-AP exam project is producing a children's book that teaches a specific biological concept to young children (Pre-K to 2nd grade)

This project is 50% of the 4th quarter grade.

Attendance will count for 25% of your 4th quarter grade.