

AP BIOLOGY

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MATERIALS

Large 3-ring notebook (~3 inch) WITH DIVIDERS

Calculator (Check website link for approved calculators)

Post it notes/sticky tabs

Course Description The AP Biology course is a fast paced, challenging, and fun year long biology course designed to be the equivalent of an introductory college course. Success in this course will depend on your study skills, reading and writing abilities, motivation and maturity. AP BIOLOGY differs significantly from the usual first high school course in biology with respect to the kind of textbook used, range and depth of topics covered, laboratory work done by students, and time and effort required of the students. Student-designed labs rather than "cookbook" labs are the ultimate goal.

AP CREDIT

Many colleges give credit for introductory biology for a score of 3 if they are non-science majors, but few will accept a score of 3 for credit if the student is a science major. *Many colleges DO NOT accept AP Biology Exam scores for credit for Biology majors.* If one of your goals is to obtain college credit for this class, you should check the requirements for the colleges you are likely to attend. Not all schools accept AP scores. The AP BIO webpage has a link to the College Board website that allows you to search for AP credit policies at different universities. *(Some colleges require the submission of your AP BIO LAB NOTEBOOK to receive lab credit, so hold on to your LAB NOTEBOOK after completing the course)*

Course Goals The two main goals of AP Biology are to help students develop a conceptual framework for modern biology and to help students gain an appreciation of science as a process. Emphasis in AP Biology should be on developing an understanding of concepts rather than memorizing vocab and facts. Science is a process rather than an accumulation of facts; Personal experience in scientific inquiry, recognition of unifying themes that integrate the major topics of biology, and application of biological knowledge and critical thinking are key to success.

PREREQUISITES: Students enrolled in this course should have completed BOTH of the following:

ONE YEAR of Biology (BIO I and Bio II) **AND** ONE YEAR of Chemistry with a "B" or better

Due to the vast amount of information students are expected to learn, I will assume students already have an understanding of topics covered in these prerequisite classes and we will focus on covering NEW information. Some independent review of prior topics may be required.

BIOLOGY REVIEW: (See above)

If you wish to go back and review concepts from Biology I and Biology II use the following:

BHS BIOLOGY WEBPAGE User Name: biology Password: bhs

EXPECTATIONS: Self-motivation, self-discipline and the maturity to handle the work required for a college-level class are the ultimate keys to success. There is a great deal of outside study time required. Those students who are not committed to spending the necessary preparation time each day will find the course very difficult. Each student and parent should not be surprised by course requirements that are in excess of what you would expect from an honors-level course. Also, some students, accustomed to making all A's, may make B's or C's on tests and start to doubt themselves and their decision to enter the course because they forget that they are taking a college level course with standards that are much higher than usual. Students do not have to make A's on every test to do very well on the AP Exam.

HOMEWORK: KEEPING UP WITH ASSIGNMENTS IS VERY IMPORTANT! Read your textbook nightly. Stay up-to-date; Be prepared for a pop-quiz over reading assignments at any time. Students will be given a "TO DO list" for each chapter and homework links/due dates are shown on the homework calendar on webpage. This is not a class where cramming the day before a test will work! Students should expect to complete a MINIMUM of 5-10 hours of study OUTSIDE of class each week. Students taking multiple AP courses should be aware of the time commitment required by each. The vast majority of the students who do not pass the AP Bio exam have an inconsistent record of homework assignments and labs. The most successful students are those who make a daily commitment to their studies. Even if there is no specific homework assignment, students should "**make their own assignments**" to solidify content knowledge (review notes, play a review game, take a practice test, make a graphic organizer, word web, or concept map, watch a video, etc.)

LABS: AP Biology is a lab based course. Students are required to complete 8 of 13 suggested AP Bio Labs. We will complete these, as well as, additional hands on activities, supplemental labs, and computer simulations. Emphasis will be student-directed rather than "cook book" labs. If you are absent, alternative data may be supplied for use in completing a lab write up. You will still be responsible for the concepts. *In order to participate in labs, students and parents must sign the LAB SAFETY CONTRACT.*

LATE WORK: ALL BILL assignments that are late will be zeros! It is important that you come to class prepared with background knowledge to actively participate in class activities. **Late BILL assignments** can be completed for 50% credit after the due date. **Late NON-BILL assignments** (labs, practice problems, etc.) will drop 25%. Once assignments are graded and returned, the missing assignments will drop to 50%. Once a unit is tested over, work for that unit can NOT be turned in for credit.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: Extra resources are available for purchase by students.
PLEASE TALK TO ME BEFORE YOU SPEND MONEY ON other study resources.

SEMESTER GRADE: The BHS grading scale will be followed. GPA calculations at BHS reflect this increased rigor. (a grade of B in an AP course counts as an A in terms of calculating student GPA *but is recorded as a B in the transcript!*) Overall grade for the course will be based on the following:
1st/3rd quarter 50%; 2nd /4th quarter 50%

PARENTS PLEASE NOTE:

15 hours (Five 3 credit classes) is considered a FULL-TIME course load for a COLLEGE student. College students taking more than 18 hours (6 classes) require a dean/professor signatures for an "OVERLOAD". Students at BHS often take 7 classes including multiple AP level courses, in addition to participating in extracurricular activities. For your student's mental and physical health, please consider this when helping them choose courses for their junior and senior year.

STUDENTS PLEASE NOTE:

Students taking multiple AP classes should be aware of the coursework expectations. Budgeting your time to complete homework, learn content, and prepare for AP Exams is essential to success. Look at the AP testing schedule and plan your prep time accordingly. Remember, if you are taking "other AP exams", you may miss class time when we will be reviewing the week before the AP Bio Exam.

AP EXAM: The AP Exam will be administered **Monday May 14, 2018**. The exam is 3 hours long and includes both a 90-minute multiple choice section (63 multiple choice and 6 grid-in questions) and an 80-minute free-response section (6 short and 2 long essay style questions) that begins with a mandatory 10-minute reading period. The multiple-choice section accounts for half of the student's exam grade, and the free-response section accounts for the other half.

2018 AP EXAM SCHEDULE

May 7 AP Chemistry-AM	May 8 Physics I- PM	May 9 AP English-Lit & Comp AP Physics II-PM	May 10 AP Gov't and Politics	May 11 AP US History
May 14 AP BIO AP Physics C Mechanics- PM	May 15 AP Calculus	May 16 AP English- Lang & Comp	May 17 AP Statistics-PM	May 18 AP Human Geography AP Micro Econ-PM

EXTRA HELP: There is no such thing as a "dumb" question! I am available for extra help before school, lunch, and after school. Please let me know ahead of time if you plan to come for help. Come prepared with specific questions, problems, or labs. Please do not wait until you are swamped and in over your head before you come for help! Other "outside of class time" review sessions may be held prior to the AP Exam in May. If you have any questions or concerns about the course or the contents of this letter, please contact me.