

AP BIOLOGY SYLLABUS



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Materials: 5-subject college ruled spiral notebook, college ruled composition notebook (used for FRQs), pen, pencils, colored pencils, highlighters, & district, provided, charged chrome book.

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.**

Course Outline:

- o Unit 1: Biochemistry (2-3 wks.)
- o Unit 2: Cells (3-4 wks.)
- o Unit 3: Cellular Energy (2-3 wks.)
- o Unit 4: Cellular Communication (2-3 wks.)
- o Unit 5: Heredity (2-3 wks.)
- o Unit 6: Genetic Regulation (4-5 wks.)
- o Unit 7: Natural Selection (4-5 wks.)
- o Unit 8: Ecology (4-5 wks.)

Classroom Expectations: This class is conducted at the college level and students are expected to work accordingly. The primary expectation in class is to maintain a safe and respectful learning atmosphere. Below are some ideas of what this looks like:

- ❖ Speaking and acting respectfully to each other, the teacher, and guests/substitutes:
 - o Appropriate language and interactions
 - o Active listening
 - o Clear communication about any concerns
- ❖ Respecting the space and the materials used:
 - o Make safety top priority
 - o Follow directions
 - o Keep everything clean and functional (report any issues right away)
- ❖ Respecting the content
 - o Keep an open mind, try new things/ideas
 - o Be present - on time and engaged
 - o Ask questions to help clarify the material

Grades: are calculated based on the following: Assessments, Labs, Science Notebook & Projects. The value of each individual assignment varies. Students earn a grade based on the quality, accuracy, and timeliness of the work they complete. Overall class grades are based upon the following scale:

90-100% = A 80-89% = B 70-79% = C 55-69.4% = D Below 55% = F

Assignment Policies:

- o All assignments need to be completed and turned in on time to get full credit
- o You will maintain 2 different notebooks for this class; a spiral notebook (science interactive notebook) that will be organized and turned in each test day for a grade & a composition notebook that will be used for weekly FRQs.
- o There will be various types of learning opportunities, which may look like hands-on activities, mini-projects, labs, discussions, worksheets, practice tests, etc. They are important to learn content and practice skills before formal assessments and may be used to provide feedback and gauge progress.

Labs: The laboratory experience is extremely important in the AP Biology course and is used to emphasize that biology and science is a process, which involves the development and testing of a hypothesis, collection, analysis, and presentation of data with a clear discussion of the results. Laboratory experiments reports are required for each of the recommended Inquiry-Based AP Biology Labs. These reports may take the form of formal lab write-ups or group whiteboard presentations. Students will work in lab groups to complete lab procedures but are responsible for turning in individual lab reports.

Assessments: At the end of each unit, a summative assessment will be given, which will consist of both multiple-choice and free-response questions (FRQs). There will be a comprehensive summative exam at the end of each semester. At a minimum, there will be one formative assessment (quiz) given each week. Students are expected to be physically in class to take the assessment

Absences: Make Up & Late Work Policy

If the absence is an excused absence, a student has as many days as they miss to make up the assignments + 2 days (example: miss two days of school, assignments missed during that time will be due the 4th day after you return). Typically, late work will not be taken/accepted. All assignments should be completed by the deadline provided by the instructor.

Strategies for Success in AP Biology

1. **Come to class:** nothing can replace being involved with the lecture/discussion as it is given ...most students feel that they learn the material by being IN class. *Be engaged with the class and every discussion - have no regrets, prepare throughout the year! #trustme you will be glad you did!*
2. **Be an authentic learner:** every time you take a short-cut, copy an assignment instead of doing it, lack academic honesty you are truly hurting yourself – students that approach the class in this fashion are never as successful as those who invest in the learning process.
3. **Stay out in front:** don't get behind; it is always harder to try and catch up. It is best to learn/process the material AS SOON AS YOU GET IT!
4. **Get the easy points:** don't lose points because you forgot to do your homework or get a paper stamped. **You will be amazed at how a few points can end up impacting your overall grade.*
5. **Be prepared:** Realize that luck is not a factor to your success. If you have a quiz or a test, PREPARE FOR IT! Everybody is different; **you need to do what works for YOU, not your friend.* Good preparation includes reading your textbook, lab material, watching videos, taking practice quizzes/exams, & seeking help when needed.

The above procedures are being used in my class and apply to your student. I want you to understand what is expected of your student so that we can work together to facilitate their learning. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at the phone number or email listed on the front of this sheet. Please sign to acknowledge that you have received this information and have your student return it to me.

Thank you very much for your cooperation and support! Let's have a great year!

Sincerely,
Mr. Christopher Bernardo
Norco High School

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____