

AP Biology Syllabus

2020-2021

Instructor: Ms. Samantha Weeks

Room: 4-323

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Tutoring: During lunch (briefly afterschool) or another pre-arranged time. Due to coaching after school time is limited.

Textbook: Campbell- Biology In Focus AP Edition (2nd Edition) – this text will be accessed online. Students will be provided an access code and will create an account at <https://www.pearsonmylabandmastering.com/>

Materials:

- Online Textbook- Campbell Biology In Focus AP Edition (2nd Edition)
- Recommended 5 subject notebook- this is the best way to organize materials and a great tool to take to college.
- Students will need to have their own calculator- scientific or graphing
- Virtual access to Canvas, TEAMS and other common apps in the classroom is recommended- cell phones or personal laptops will be utilized (especially as we experience this hybrid model of instruction)

Additional/ Supplemental Websites that may be used:

- Bocaciega.org : school information and dates
- Masteringbiology.com : reading assignments via online textbook, practice tutorials and study modules
- Canvas and Microsoft TEAMS will be our main mode of communication and posting of materials
- myAP.org (AP Classroom through CollegeBoard will be utilized in depth for practice materials)

Course Content:

In AP Biology, the emphasis is on the students making connections between the big ideas within the AP Biology Curriculum Framework. AP Biology is a rigorous and demanding course, which is the equivalent of an introductory college Biology course and it is designed to prepare the students for the AP Biology Exam at the end of the course.

Content will be covered in more depth and greater expectations will be placed on interpretation and analysis of information than previous biology courses. In addition, statistical analysis of data and modeling of concepts will be expected. A significant amount of reading will be required of the student prior to the class discussion and lecture. The student will be required to take their own notes prior coming to class, but then we will revisit and review topics in depth to gain better understanding. Mathematical skills such as basic algebra and graphing knowledge will be expected and built on.

The AP Biology curriculum encompasses 4 'Big Ideas', with Essential Knowledge and Process Skills that support each one. The 4 'Big Ideas' are list below and will be studied and discussed as they relate to one another, meaning they will not be studied or focused on in isolation. Although we will cover all topics over the course of the year, ideas may not be presented in this exact order.

Big Idea 1: Evolution – the process of evolution drives the diversity and unity of life

Big Idea 2: Cellular Processes (Energy and Communication) – Biological systems utilize free energy and molecular building blocks to grow.

Big Idea 3: Genetics and Information Transfer – living systems store, retrieve, transmit, and respond to information essential to life processes

Big Idea 4: Interactions – Biological systems interact and these systems and their interactions possess complex properties.

Class Format:

Lectures/Presentations/Videos:

We will review new material almost daily. In order to be best prepared for class, students will be asked to read the appropriate chapters and prepare their own notes prior to arrival. Chapters and Units will vary on pace-meaning reading amounts will vary however a chapter or two per week is average. Lecture presentations via Powerpoint or Nearpods will be used and supported with video resources and can be expected in some format daily. Students will be asked to edit and follow their own notes as we review the material. This is a best practice for higher education to help students practice the behavior of preparing themselves and materials ahead of time to better there understanding.

Labs:

Labs or activities will vary based on unit or topic. They will likely be altered this year to best suit social distancing guidelines and use of materials. Many of the recommended labs for this course can be found online in video format or a similar virtual simulation. We will adapt our activities throughout the year based on what is best for each group. It is possible some simulations can be done with household items and may be used as a homework assignment in place of classwork. We will do our best to simulate and gather data to complete at LEAST ONE full lab report.

Homework:

Most of the homework in this course will be reading and preparing of notes. Unfinished classwork assignments will also be considered homework. This year will be shifting to turn most if not ALL materials virtual through Canvas. Much like last quarter student submitted work via TEAMS or FOCUS, all work will be submitted via

CANVAS this year. This is a process students and teachers will become familiar with as the year goes on. Required AP work will also be found through our College Board APClassroom (myAP.org). This is an expectation on all AP classes so students will need to have internet access via phone or computer throughout the year.

FRQs (Free Response Questions)

A critical part of any AP class to be able to successfully answer questions posed on the exam at the end of the year. Practicing our analysis and writing skills will be a routine part of the class. It will be recommended that students keep each FRQ they complete in 'section' of the recommended 5 subject notebook. This is be a very helpful tool for review of skills and content throughout the year.

Assignments and Grades:

All work can be grouped into one of three categories. Assignments will be given a point value based on the type of assignment.

Notebook (15%)	Supporting Work (30%)	Assessments (55%)
Notes (pre-reading)	Classwork/Lab Activities	'Pop' Reading Checks
Note summaries or assignments	Discussion Posts	Quizzes
Bellwork/Exit Tickets/General Participation	Group Activities or Meetings	Chapter/Unit Tests
Progress Checks (APClassroom)	FRQ practice assignments	

Grading Scale

90-100 A	60-69.5 D
80-89.5 B	50-59.5 F
70-79.5 C	

Exams

Students are required to take the first semester exam for AP, IB or AICE courses.

An AP, IB or AICE exam will be taken in lieu of a teacher developed final (semester 2) exam in those designated courses. In such case, the student must still attend his or her regular subject area classes for structured activities and/or projects until the end of the grading period.

In the event that the student does not sit for the AP, IB, or AICE exams accompanying the coursework during the school year, a final exam grade of zero (0) will be entered. For AP, IB, or AICE exams administered after the last day of the school year, final grade for the course will be determined within one day of the exam date.

*** Please note an additional contract page regarding the acknowledgement and timeline of the AP exam can be found at the end of this syllabus. This contract will be sent out again to be signed an additional time near the end of the first quarter. If at any time the student is concerned about their standing or progress in the course they are to contact Ms. Weeks immediately so a plan can be made to better assist the student so they are successful in this course.

Classroom Expectations and Behavior:

All EXPECTATIONS will be thoroughly presented and discussed throughout the first week of classes. These expectations are set in place to ensure we have a productive, exciting, and collaborative year with each other while accomplishing classroom and personal goals. **Expectations and certain behaviors will be EXTRA important this year as our learning environment looks drastically different than years prior.**

- Be present both physically/virtually and mentally. Committing to an AP course means committing to putting forth your best effort in order to ensure you get as much out of this experience as possible, preparing yourself for higher education in the following years. You must be **ENGAGED** in class for you to truly succeed to the best of your ability.
- Be prepared. As a college level course, we must make the most out of our class time together. Tasks and assignments assigned outside of the class must be completed outside of the class. In order to facilitate class discussions and reduce lecture time in favor of labs and knowledge enhancing activities, you must complete homework and remaining classwork prior to coming to class. ***** This year more than ever, you will be need to get yourself organized and pay attention to DUE DATES.**
- Study on your own in addition to class. **College courses are intended for students to spend 3 hours of independent work in addition to each hour spent in the classroom.** Often you will be asked to review material prior to class to ensure a more meaningful and beneficial lecture/discussion/activity.
- **Communicate like a young adult.** This means not only in your assignments but in the way you communicate and hold dialogue with your classmates and teacher. Complete sentences will almost always be expected of you. Emails and discussions posts will have appropriate greetings and full and complete thoughts – not the quick verbiage you send to your peers via text, snapchat, or instagram.
- **Give your best, always.** Although success on the AP exam is a goal of this course, our biggest goal is to prepare you for life after high school, higher education, success in the real world, as well as knowledge and understanding in the fields of science and biology.
- **BE PATEINT** with peers and STAFF as we navigate this trying time. RESPECT each other, their health, safety and space. REALIZE that everyone- student and staff are dealing with numerous challenges- including ways and means of doing our best to manage this new way of educating and learning.

** School wide Tardy Policy is in place for both students on campus and those participating virtually.

Absent/Late Work:

- **All materials this year will be found and assigned via Canvas. This means that if a student is absent from Face-to Face class they still will have access to materials. This should be used the students advantage to keep up with make up work. Due dates will be assigned and this will appear in Canvas as well.**

Per school board policy: students have the same number of days that they were absent to make up the work.

After reading the syllabus please review the final expectations listed below and follow the instructions to submit the appropriate FORM to acknowledge student/parent understanding.

Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions or concerns. I look forward to an exciting and productive year.

~Ms. Samantha Weeks

weekssa@pcsb.org

AP BIOLOGY PARENT/STUDENT CONTRACT 2020-2021

Thoroughly read the syllabus above and the list of expectations below, and then complete the FORM found on Canvas to confirm you have read and understand all that is presented for this course. This will count as your first assignment. It is critical that students and parents complete this form together.

Expectations of AP Biology students:

1. I recognize that participation in AP Biology requires me to:
 - a. Demonstrate increased student independence
 - b. Take on a high degree of responsibility
 - c. Meet higher standards than other high school classes

2. I understand that AP Biology is the equivalent of a college level biology course and therefore, requires the same amount of work as a college level biology course (approximately 3 hours of independent study for each hour of class).

3. I understand that late work will NOT be accepted. All assignments will be completed and ready to turn in BEFORE I get to class. (This does not include if a student is absent, however absent work will be collected in a TIMELY manner)

4. I understand that between labs, lectures and reviews, there is really no way to make up a missed class lab, therefore, it is essential that I attend every class and am prepared to participate.
 - a. Students will complete an alternate assignment for missed labs
 - b. Missed tests will be made up ASAP, within one week of the student returning.
 - c. If a student must be absent due to illness or family emergency, the student is responsible for making up work within the accepted time frame (one day per day absent)

5. I understand that in order to cover everything that may appear on the AP Biology National Exam, this course must proceed at a rapid pace.

6. I recognize that the material covered in AP Biology is extremely challenging. I also recognize that while my grade in this course and the score I receive on the AP exam matter, the amount and quality of knowledge I take from this class to college is most important.

7. I recognize that I am responsible for my own learning and success in class, not my parents, teacher, advisor, or friends. I will advocate for myself if I have concerns about my grade or need help with content.

8. I understand that lab safety is of extreme importance and I will abide by all safety rules. I realize that if I am not following procedures I may be removed from the lab and receive a zero with no opportunity to make it up. I also understand that I will be held financially responsible for broken equipment and promise to work with caution.