



AP BIOLOGY CLASS POLICIES 2020-2021



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I Textbook

Textbook: Biology in Focus 2nd Ed (2017)
Cliffs Notes/Barron's for AP biology

Materials: 3 ringed binder

Scientific and/or graphing calculator accepted by AP Central

Pencils, Paper, Ruler, colored pencils, markers, scissors, glue sticks

****AP Fees for the 2020-21 school year will remain \$95 per exam. All students enrolled in an AP class are expected to take the exam for that class. Students must take the exam to receive AP credit and the weighted GPA. There is no cancellation fee this year.**

Based on the new ordering procedure, students MUST pay the AP exam fee deposit of \$40/exam at the time of registration. The balance of \$55/exam is due by November 1, 2020. Exams will be ordered in November and will only be ordered for students who have paid their fees.

II Course Description

Advanced Placement Biology is designed to be a two-semester college introductory biology course. A student may have the opportunity to receive 4-8 credit hours of biology credit, depending upon the score earned on the AP exam and their chosen university acceptance rules. This class will be taught as a 100-level college course.

BE PREPARED: This class is very rigorous. There will be a lot of work, and a lot of that work will be independent and outside of the class. AP level classes differ significantly from the traditional high school class in text content, depth of material covered, lab work, lab write ups, level of critical thinking, and time and effort necessary by the student to achieve mastery in the content area. This course is designed for the student who has taken, and done well (B- or better), in biology 1-2 and chemistry 1-2. Because of the amount of material and the speed at which it must be delivered, **it is extremely necessary that the student be present to each class**. Excessive absences will damage the overall grade in this class and the student will be counseled to drop the class. The ultimate goal of this class is to learn a lot of biological concepts, understand how the concepts are integrated and to do well on the AP exam in May.

The year ahead is quite challenging. There will be a great deal of reading! You will cover most of it. There will be PowerPoint lectures to help you understand the material. You will not be able to "take it easy" in this class. Some days we will have "fun" in lab, other days, you will have to knuckle down and do hard work. If you become lazy you will not do well in this class.

III Goals and Expectations

A. Instructional Goals

1. The students will gain a great depth of knowledge about biology and the complexity of life on earth.
2. Student will master biological concepts in the areas of biotechnology, cellular and molecular biology, genetics, ecology and evolution.
3. Students will apply their knowledge of the nature of science to problems and activities in biology.
4. Students will improve process and writing skills and critical thinking skills.
5. Students will take and pass the AP biology exam on May

B. Student Expectations

1. Students should make every attempt to attend every class. The schedule is set and there is very little wiggle room for adjustments. If you should miss a class, **it is your responsibility to obtain missed work from a classmate, or me, before school, after school, or at lunch.** You should obtain other students' emails and or phone numbers so that you will be able to contact them if you need help. I will try to have material posted on my web page also.
2. **All tests are to be made up at lunch or after school. Labs cannot always be made up.**
3. Students should pay attention in class. Do not do work from other classes. You will have to devote some class time to AP bio almost every night.
4. You must commit to doing the "At Home" work. This work may be review from the day, but more likely, that material to do at home will be advancement so we can do activities in class. If you don't do the "at home" work, you cannot keep up in this class.
5. In addition to the "at home" work, you will have homework almost every night. Much of the homework in reading and studying and will not be an "official" assignment, but you are expected to do it. You must read the chapters prior to class lecture so you will be prepared with questions and comments in class. After class, re-read the chapters and then read your notes and the chapters again before the exam. This is how you succeed in college.
6. Lab write-ups will be required for most labs. These may be formal write ups, mini posters, online presentations.
7. **Students MUST take the responsibility to ask for help when needed.** You should read the material beforehand and at least attempted to understand the material. Do not wait too long to seek help once you feel lost. **I am available in the morning at 7am, at lunch, and after school almost EVERYDAY** although I would appreciate a "heads-up" for an after-school meeting.
8. This course is college level. Labs are set up so that you do the work. During lab I can facilitate, but I am not the girl with the answers. **You must read the lab beforehand,** and we will have pre-lab quizzes once in a while. If you have any questions about the lab, underline the part of the lab you have questions about or write them down so that I can answer them BEFORE you do the lab. You should know the names of all of the equipment, be able to make up solutions, and set up the equipment as necessary. **Please DO NOT be absent during labs! Labs cannot always be made-up.**
9. **The AP Biology Exam is on May 14 at 8 am.** Expect practice exams during the year with large practice exams beginning the 4th quarter. We will have some Saturday sessions in the 4th quarter to help prepare for the exam.
10. Because this is a college level class, and the work required in this class must be done in a timely (prompt) manner. The materials learned in class supports the assessments, labs and the AP exam. There may be an alternative assignment given for an excused absence. For work turned in late that has not been graded and returned to other students.

C. Teacher Expectations

1. I am available for help by appointment as needed. I am almost always available before school, at lunch or after school until 3:30 without an appointment.
2. I will come to class each day prepared to facilitate learning and provide a positive, safe environment to encourage success in this class.
3. I will ensure that each student has the opportunity to succeed and will provide a variety of instructional strategies to help each student understand the biological concepts.
4. Assignment and grades will be posted on Infinite Campus in a timely manner

IV Grading Policies and Procedures

A. Assessments, Classwork, Labs and Homework

A variety of assessments will be used, but the majority of your grade, 90%) will be determined by quizzes, tests, and labs. Periodic quizzes (announced and unannounced) will be given to ascertain your understanding and if you have been reading as prescribed. Questions on the quizzes and tests will include material in the text, material covered in class, vocabulary; other assigned reading assignments and activities, and the labs. Unit tests will cover several chapters. They are comprehensive and extensive. Projects require students to do much of the work outside of class. Daily work/Homework will be graded upon completion but will not make up a substantial portion of your grade in this class. It is support material for the exams. Projects, daily work, and homework will compromise 10% of your grade.

***You MUST participate in the assignments in Teams. Assignments will be graded on a regular basis. Some of these assignments may be labs, reading, activities, FRQ's or assessments.**

***Some assessments will be through the AP Central Portal. They may be timed. Most times, you will take these assessments at home.**

***You may have to utilize a variety of websites: To include: HHMI; Data Nuggets; CrashCourse; AP Central: Various simulation sites for labs; YouTube;**

Lab write ups are due one week after the completion of the lab.

B. Grading System

Grading is based upon a point system. Grades will be in Infinite Campus.

YOU NEED TO KEEP ALL ASSIGNMENTS ALL YEAR.

Assessments	50%
Final Exam	15%
Labs	25%
Practice	10%

C. Late Work

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR TURNING ALL ASSIGNMENTS IN ON TIME.

D. Make up work

According to district policy, the student is allowed to have the ability to make up missing work- one day absent = two days (not class days) make up. It is your responsibility to get the work you have missed when you are absent. Labs do not fall under the district policy. Most of the AP Biology labs are expensive and are a one-time only use. The shelf life is limited one the lab has been started by the other students.

E. Attendance

Attendance: The WCSD attendance policy for 2020-2021 school year: Students are required to attend class every day or to participate in instruction by obtaining and completing make-up work.

F. Plagiarism

Plagiarism/copying (AKA cheating) is not allowed in this class. Copying information from another students, internet source, document, etc. with the intent to turn it in for a grade under the assumption that is it your work is plagiarism. Even if you “change the words” it is still plagiarism! This will result in a zero for the assignment. If you loan your friend your work and they copy it, you both will receive a zero. I do not have time to play detective. You may have to turn assignments in to “Turnitin.com.

V. Behavior and Personal Performance

In order to maintain a positive and enthusiastic learning environment, rules and daily practices must be understood and followed. Everyone has the right to learn. No one has the right to hinder learning. I expect AP students to have high standards in their attitude and behavior. This includes cooperation, participation, and professionalism both in and out of the classroom.

A. Classroom Rules

1. Be punctual. You MUST be in your seat ready to learn when the tardy bell rings.
2. Be prepared every day. You must come with your notebook, paper, pen or pencil, and any assignment(s) that are due every day.
3. Be actively involved in your learning process. Stay on task and take good notes.
4. Respect others, their property, and their opinions. Do not talk when other are talking (including the teacher). Do not touch anything that does not belong to you without permission. Respect others' personal space, and do not use inappropriate language or gestures.

B. Consequences

1st Offence- Conference with me and possible detention

2nd Offence- Parent will be called. Parent/student/teacher conference if necessary

3rd Offence- SRO will be notified/discipline at the door/parent involvement

Severe Offences: Immediate call to administrator and removal from the class. Continues disruption or serious infraction will result in a conference with the student, parent, counselor, teacher, and administrator in charge and may result in permanent removal from the class. Violation of laboratory safety rules will result in a zero for the lab and may merit immediate discipline referral. The teacher reserves the right to skips steps one and two if the offence deems necessary.

Technology violations progressive discipline plan: **(Please read carefully as the consequences have changed)**

First offence: cell phone/electronic device will be confiscated, given to SRO and returned to the student at the end of the school day. Parent will be notified.

Second offence: cell phone/ electronic device will be confiscated, given to SRO, parent will be notified and **the parent will be required to pick up the cell phone/electronic device.**

Third offence: cell phone/electronic device will be confiscated given to SRO. Parent will be required to pick up cell phone.

Fourth offence: cell phone/electronic device will be confiscated and given to SRO will assign consequences which may include suspension.

C. COVID SAFETY

1. Students are encouraged to wash/sanitize hands before and after class.
2. Students will **always** wear a mask in class.
3. Desks will be individualized, and specific seats apply to periods.
4. Students are to maintain 6 feet of social distancing while in class
5. No sharing of masks, supplies, lab equipment, or any other items.
6. See the teacher with any COVID safety concerns.
7. Walking around the room will be prohibited.
8. All district regulations for self-monitoring before coming to school apply to this class.
9. If you are not feeling well, please do not come to school.

Instruction will be maintained through Teams while we are in a hybrid instructional format. Should you be excluded from class due to exposure, you can maintain the assignments and instructions through Teams. Should the school be closed, communications will continue through Teams and Zoom as schedule permits.

Please sign and return this paper within one week.

Dear Parent or Guardian:

As stated in the registration catalogue for the 2020-2021 school year, there will be a **\$50 lab fee** for your child's science class. The fees that are collected are used for a variety of materials that make this class a lab based, hands on learning experience for your child. The fees are spent on labs to include genetic transformation, electrophoresis, cellular respirations studies, expendable items for Chi² Evolution comparison items, and other consumables and miscellaneous items that help supplement the science curriculum. *Please understand that many more consumables will need to be purchased this year to support Health District guidelines of not sharing materials.*

Please remember that lab fees are due by the end of September, but the sooner the better. Your cooperation and support are appreciated! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at Kstynen@washoeschools.net

As part of taking this Advanced Placement (AP) class, students will be required to set up an online account with the College Board (the company that oversees the AP Program), if they don't already have one. With a College Board account, students can access AP curriculum supports, SAT and AP scores, and send them to colleges. Additionally, an account lets students manage personal college lists, save scholarship searches, compare costs at colleges of interest, and more. When setting up the account, students will need to use a personal email address in order to have access to the account long term, since their WCSD email address will no longer be active after the student graduates. They will also need to supply the College Board with identifying information such as full name, email address, high school name, year of graduation, and home address. You can access the College Board Terms and Conditions here: <https://about.collegeboard.org/site-terms> and their Privacy Policy here: <https://about.collegeboard.org/privacy-policy>. By signing below, I acknowledge the foregoing account requirements and consent to my student registering for an online account with the College Board using the foregoing required information.

AP® Biology Statement of Understanding

I, _____ (PRINT NAME) have read and understand the course requirements for AP® Biology 2020-2021 school year. I understand that tardiness, absences and inappropriate use of electronics impact not only my performance and learning, but also my classmate's ability to learn. I understand the WCSD attendance policy, McQueen high school cell phone policy, and grading policy. I understand that I need a College Board account. I accept Ms. Stynen's tardy and attendance policy, McQueen's cell phone policy and McQ's science department's grading policy.

I understand I must take the AP® Biology exam on May 14 of 2021.

Student signature

date

Parent signature

date

