

AP Biology Syllabus

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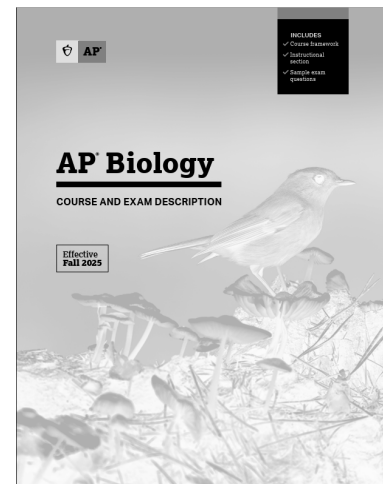
Course Overview

Introduction

AP Biology allows students the opportunity to experience an introductory college-level course. This course is focused on understanding and utilizing science as a process as well as building connections within the content.

Course and Exam Description

The following document is essential for understanding the content of the course and informing your studies. It tells you exactly what you are expected to know and not know for this course. I recommend that you bookmark this document or save it for easy reference. Click [here](#) to access it.



Course Content Overview

Unit	Chapters	Exam Weight
1: Chemistry of Life	2, 3, 4, 5	8-11%
2: Cell Structure and Function	6, 7	10-13%
3: Cellular Energetics	8, 9, 10	12-16%
4: Cell Communication and Cell Cycle	11, 12	10-15%
5: Heredity	13, 14, 15	8-11%
6: Gene Expression and Regulation	16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21	12-16%
7: Natural Selection	22, 23, 24, 25, 26	13-20%
8: Ecology	40, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56	10-15%
<i>Review</i>		

******This curriculum assumes that students are familiar with Chi-square, standard deviation, standard error. In addition, the students need to understand the importance of identifying mathematical trends. This includes generating a line of best fit for certain data.

The AP test is Monday, May 4th, 2026 at 8:00am

Grading Policies

Grading Scale:

A = 90%-100%
B = 80%-89%
C = 70%-79%
D = 60%-69%
F = 59% and below

Grades are weighted as follows:

Warm-ups/Canvas	10%
Notes	10%
Weekly Quizzes	20%
Assessment	60%

Readings & Notes (Homework)

Students will have readings to complete for homework between 1-4 times a week. Students are required to take notes while they read and keep their notes in an organized binder or notebook (physical or digital). At the end of each unit, a random set of notes from the unit will be checked for a grade. Cornell notes are the recommended format of notes for this class, but outline notes and other organized formats will be accepted.

Classwork & Weekly Quizzes

Students will have assignments to complete in class each day. These assignments will usually expand upon the readings that students completed the night before. Students will be quizzed on these assignments at the end of each week and may use their classwork from the week as a resource.

Due Dates and Late Work

Warm-ups and canvas assignments will be accepted up to one week after their due date. After one week, the assignment will lock on Canvas and can no longer be completed. Notes are not accepted late. If a student misses a weekly quiz, they must arrange a time to make it up within one week.

Citizenship

Citizenship grades are awarded based on behavior and attendance in class. Citizenship grades will be lowered for the following reasons:

1. Negative behavior towards the teacher or fellow students
2. Excessive late work submissions
3. Excessive absences or tardies (see [CHHS Grading Policy](#) for more information)
4. Poor use of time in class (excessive phone use and/or other distractions)

Academic Integrity

All work (homework, quizzes, tests, papers, projects, labs, etc.) must be your own. Cheating includes, but is not limited to

- o Submitting work copied from a friend or an outside source (without attribution)
- o Accepting or giving help during a test or quiz.
- o Plagiarism/Using AI to produce responses for assignments

You will greatly decrease the benefit you receive from this class by cheating. In most cases, cheating will result in an automatic zero on the assignment, phone call home, and possible administration involvement.

Unit Test Policies

Students will take multiple-choice unit tests for each unit. There will also be FRQ's throughout the year on selected units. Tests are constructed using College Board's question bank, which contains authentic AP Biology questions. Students will also be held to time standards similar to the AP exam (approximately 1.5 minutes per multiple choice question and between 10-25 minutes per FRQ).

Format of Tests

All multiple choice unit tests will be approximately 30 questions. Students will be given a time limit similar to that of the AP exam. Students will be provided with the official AP Biology equation sheet and will be allowed to bring one "cheat sheet" to the exam for personal use. The cheat sheet must be one 8.5" x 11" piece of paper (front and back) and must be handwritten. Typed or photocopied cheat sheets are not permitted. Exam materials (including calculators and cheat sheets) may not be shared amongst students.

Retakes

The day following each multiple choice test there will be a group retake of the same test. Groups will be made according to each student's individual score on the test. Students will have one class period to discuss and submit their consensus answers. The group score will be averaged with each student's individual score to generate a new test score that will go into the gradebook.

Absences during Unit Tests

Students are expected to be present on all unit test and FRQ days. If a student is aware that they will be absent on a test day, that student **MUST** notify me **48 hours in advance** so that I can arrange to have them take the test early. If a student fails to notify me and is absent on the day of the test, they will not be permitted to take the test unless they can present a doctor's note or signed explanation from an adult. In this case, students have one week from the date of the unit test to make up the test. **Any absence on a multiple choice test day will result in forfeiture of a group retake opportunity.**

Rules of Conduct during Tests

On the first test day, students will be asked to sign an acknowledgement of test day rules with the following statements:

- I am allowed to use both sides of an 8.5 x 11 paper as a cheat sheet
- My cheat sheet must be handwritten and may not be photocopied from another student
- I may not share cheat sheets with another student
- I may not take any exam materials out of this room
- I may not have my phone out during or after the test
- I must stop working and turn in my test once the timer has run out
- Being absent on test day means that I forfeit my opportunity to participate in a group retake
- Violation of any of these rules may jeopardize my school's AP accreditation

Failure to comply with any of these policies could result in a 0 on the test and/or forfeiture of a group retake opportunity.

Expectations & Other Class Policies

Expectations

1. Respect yourself and others
2. Be on time and ready to learn
3. Take responsibility of your learning

Tips for Success

1. **Be prepared to spend time on this class.**
2. Read everything carefully.
3. Start early. Do not wait until the last minute.
4. Keep trying! The times when you struggle are the times you are learning the most
5. Take a deep breath when you are stressed.
6. Be kind to yourself.
7. Ask questions promptly and often.
8. Be organized

Cell Phone Policy

According to district policy, cell phones and headphones are not permitted to be used during class time. These devices should be kept completely away in a backpack (not in a pocket). Failure to comply with the district cell phone policy may result in phone removal, a decreased citizenship grade, and/or a conference with administration

Tutoring is available!

Tutoring is offered by appointment. To schedule a tutoring appointment, please send me an email. Additional tutoring hours may be announced and held during critical times (for example, the week of a test).

Attendance

Students should make every effort to attend class and to be on time. Should a student miss class for any reason, they should check the course calendar on Canvas for any work they may have missed. Please read about late work policies in the corresponding section of the syllabus

After reading this syllabus, please fill out [this form](#) to confirm your understanding of my policies