

AP Biology Class Syllabus

2018 – 2019

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Course Description

AP Biology is an introductory college-level biology course whose curriculum framework is established by the College Board. Students cultivate their understanding of biology through inquiry-based investigations as they explore the following topics: evolution, cellular processes – energy and communication, genetics, information transfer, ecology, and interactions. The course 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.

4 Big Ideas

- The process of evolution explains the diversity and unity of life.
- Biological systems utilize free energy and molecular building blocks to grow, to reproduce, and to maintain dynamic homeostasis.
- Living systems store, retrieve, transmit, and respond to information essential to life processes.
- Biological systems interact, and these systems and their interactions possess complex properties.

7 Science Practices

- Use representations and models to communicate scientific phenomena and solve scientific problems.
- Use mathematics appropriately
- Engage in scientific questioning to extend thinking or to guide investigations within the context of the AP course.
- Plan and implement data collection strategies in relation to a particular scientific question.
- Perform data analysis and evaluation of evidence
- Work with scientific explanations and theories
- Connect and relate knowledge across various scales, concepts, and representations in and across domains.

Units of Study

- The Chemistry of Life
- The Cell
- The Energy of Life
- Mendelian Genetics
- Molecular Genetics
- Mechanisms of Evolution
- The Evolutionary History of Life
- Plant Form and Function
- Animal Form and Function
- Ecology

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action.

Academic dishonesty is defined as: cheating, plagiarism or otherwise obtaining grades under false pretenses.

Plagiarism is defined as submitting the language, ideas, thoughts or work of another as one's own; or assisting in the act of plagiarism by allowing one's work to be used in this fashion.

Cheating is defined as (1) obtaining or providing unauthorized information during an examination through verbal, visual or unauthorized use of books, notes, text and other materials; (2) obtaining or providing information concerning all or part of an examination prior to that examination; (3) taking an examination for another student, or arranging for another person to take an exam in one's place; (4) altering or changing test answers after submittal for grading, grades after grades have been awarded, or other academic records once these are official.

What I Expect of You

- This is a college level course. You need to be responsible for your own learning.
- Come to class ready to learn with a good attitude and open mind.
- Bring your pen, paper, book, and composition book to class everyday.
- Work hard and do your best.
- Follow **ALL** safety rules in the lab.
- Meet your deadlines.
- Take pride in the work you do and turn in for this class.

What You can Expect from Me

- I have high expectations for my students and myself.
- I will give you homework and I expect you will do it.
- I will record tardies for students who are not in their seats working when the tardy bell rings.
- I will challenge you to think.
- I will be fair in my assessments.
- I will be supportive, helpful, and approachable.
- I will **NOT** do your work for you.

Grading Information

Six Week Test (comprehensive)	= 20%
Major Work & Tests (tests, labs, & projects)	= 50%
Daily grades (classwork, homework & quizzes)	<u>= 30%</u>
Total	= 100%

Note: During the 3rd and 6th six weeks no six week test will be given. The percentages for those grading periods are as follows.

No Six Week Test	= 0%
Major Work & Tests (tests, labs, & projects)	= 70%
Daily grades (classwork, homework & quizzes)	<u>= 30%</u>
Total	= 100%

TESTING - Please Be Aware:

- You need to be prepared when test day arrives. Read your book and go over your notes daily. Watch Bozeman or Khan academy videos on concepts you find difficult. Come ask for help ahead of time if you need it.
- Test questions in AP Biology come primarily from previous College Board AP Biology exams and will be either multiple choice or free response. All test questions are similar in structure and scope to official College Board questions. These questions will require you to THINK and apply your knowledge to novel situations. For many students, this is difficult and uncomfortable at first. The key is not to panic or give up.
- Every test during the school year is cumulative. As you will quickly learn, AP Biology questions routinely tie together multiple biological concepts, so it is difficult to parse the question bank into discrete units.
- In some cases, we may have 2 day tests (1 day mult. choice, 1 day free response) to help mimic the AP Exam and allow students to become familiar with the testing structure.

TEST CORRECTIONS: Students have the ability to correct tests from AP Biology in order to earn some points back. Corrections can earn a student up to half the points missed.

- **Rules for Corrections:**
 - Students can come in before or after school to work on corrections
 - Tests, answer sheets, and students must stay in my room.
 - For multiple choice questions that were missed, students need to **evaluate all** answer choices and **explain** (using AP Bio language) why the correct answer is right AND why all of the other answer choices are wrong.

Work must be turned in ON TIME to receive consideration for full credit.

- **Late work:**
 - 1 day after the original due date -10 points
 - NOT accepted after 1 day late grade will be recorded as a "0"

Make Up Work

In order to maintain the integrity of my tests and ensure student's knowledge and comprehension of the subject matter, I have the following Make-Up test policy.

- If you are absent on test day FOR ANY REASON, you will be given a **Make-Up test** that will cover all the same content in a different format than the original test. This test will be administered to you on the day you return to school.
- If you are absent the day before the test, you are still expected to take the test on test day.
- If you are absent multiple days prior to the test, it is still YOUR responsibility to get any and all material and assignments you missed. This is best done by checking the class website **hillsciencenwhs.weebly.com** or having your parent/guardian email me directly at khill@new-waverly.k12.tx.us. Decisions on "when to test" in these situations will be made on a case by case basis.
- Bonus questions, if offered, will be different on the Make-up test than they were on the original test.

Electronics

Per the New Waverly High School Code of Conduct, all electronic devices (phones, smartwatches, fitness trackers, Ipods, headphones, etc) must not be displayed, turned on, or used on school property during the school day. **If an electronic device is seen during the school day, it will be confiscated by any school personnel and submitted to the office.**

****IF CELL PHONES APPEAR DURING QUIZZES OR TESTS:** the security of the assessment has been compromised. This constitutes academic dishonesty and you will receive a **zero** on the assessment.

Supplies Required

- composition book(s)
- loose leaf paper & binder (may combine with other classes)
- writing utensils (pens/pencils)

*Advanced notice will be given for any additional supplies or supplies needed for projects throughout the year

Optional Supplies

- box of Kleenex
- bottle of hand sanitizer
- ream of paper

***The AP Biology Exam will be administered on Monday, May 13, 2019.
The exam is 3 hours long and broken into 2 sections.***

Section 1: (1 hour, 30 minutes) 50% of exam score

- Multiple Choice (63 questions)***
- Grid-In (6 questions)***

Section 2: (1 hour, 30 minutes includes 10 minute reading period) 50% of exam score

- Long Free Response (2 questions, one of which is lab or data-based)***
- Short Free Response (6 questions, each requiring a paragraph length argument/response)***

Sign and return this portion to Mrs. Hill tomorrow.

I, _____, have reviewed and understand the contents of the AP
Biology syllabus with my parents.

Student signature

Date

Parent Signature

Parent email / phone #

Sign and return this portion to Mrs. Hill tomorrow.

I, _____, have reviewed and understand the contents of the
Integrated Physics and Chemistry syllabus with my parents.

Student signature

Date

Parent Signature

Parent email / phone #