



AP Biology Course Syllabus & Outline 2022-2023

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Introduction

Welcome to AP Biology! AP Biology is a rigorous college course designed to introduce you to college level biology and deepen your current knowledge of biology. Students will think critically, analyze data in the context of biology, work collaboratively with others, and use many other skills. Students are expected to put in **the effort and work diligently** in AP Biology. Homework will be assigned regularly, and students are encouraged to form study groups. Please feel free to come in after school for extra help.

This year, some of the content of the course will be learned at home through the use of recorded videos stored on the AP Biology Google Drive. These “at-home lectures” will be reviewed in class. Because some of lecture will be done as homework, it is imperative that students do all of their work and do not procrastinate.

Course Description

Biology is the study of life, its forms, its functions, and how living things relate to each other and their environments. The study of biology is important to society because we need to understand energy resources and food production, disease prevention, public health, conservation, and environmental quality. This course conforms to the standards instituted by the College Board for all AP courses and covers all of the topics in the AP Biology course description. These topics include biochemistry, cell structure and function, metabolism, genetics, molecular basis of inheritance, DNA technology, evolution, microbiology, plant and animal physiology, and ecology.

Furthermore, all the above topics are integrated throughout the course using the four major “big ideas” from the AP Biology curriculum requirements.

This is a laboratory course in which students are expected to use collected data to solve biological problems.

College Credit

Students may earn college credit for taking the AP Exam at the end of the year in May. Depending on the university/college, a 3, 4, or 5 will result in credit. For example, a 3 would earn an ASU student credit for BIO100 (4 credits), while a 4 or 5 would earn an ASU student credit for BIO181 and BIO182 with lab (8 credits).

Students may also dual enroll with Chandler-Gilbert Community College for BIO100 credit (4 credits).

Textbooks

- We have a new textbook. I have no idea who wrote it or what it's called. It's a pretty neat textbook. I'll give you one.
- It is **highly** recommended that students purchase a supplemental AP Biology test taking guide. *Barron's or Kaplan are the **only** recommended guides.* Make sure you get the correct edition (Barron's – 6th edition/Kaplan – 2018-2019 version or newer when it is available)

Internet Resources

- Recommended resources are on my course website and Google Classroom (links included).

Safety

This is a laboratory course, which will utilize chemicals and other organic materials. Failure to follow proper lab procedures will result in a zero on the lab assignment and possible removal from class. For your safety, food and drinks are ***not permitted*** in class. Bottled water is permitted.

Homework & Progress Reports

Homework is due on the day noted in Google Classroom (the calendar is also available on my website through Planbook). Homework assignments include screencast lecture notes, lab write-ups, practice free response questions, etc.

Classroom Expectations & Consequences

- This is a college-level course, therefore students are expected to act appropriately
- Students will respect themselves & their peers to provide an equitable learning environment
- Technology is to be used appropriately during instructional time
- All school rules & consequences in student handbook will be enforced
- Profanity will not be tolerated

Failure to comply with school rules will result in the following consequences:

1st offense: Warning

2nd offense: Contact with parents

3rd offense: Referral to administration

Tardies

You must be in your seat prepared for class **BEFORE** the bell rings or you will be marked tardy. The following are the consequences for tardiness each semester:

1st Tardy: Warning

2nd-3rd Tardies: Lunch detention (5 minutes at the **start** of your lunch – yeah, it's awful. That's the point)

4th Tardy: Referral to administration.

Make-Up Policy

- It is your responsibility to obtain missed work and notes.
- **Please Note:** if a *long-term* assignment has been assigned prior to the absence the due date stands.
- Extensions may be granted on a case-by-case basis depending on the circumstances.
- Labs must be made up after school only.
- Late assignments will be accepted for half credit until the conclusion of a unit.
- For excused absences, you have as many days as you were gone in order to turn in the work missed for full credit.
- Time extensions will be given on a case-by-case basis. Students needing a time extension should meet with the instructor to discuss a new due date.

Excessive Absences

This is a fast-paced course so it is critical that you are in school daily. Parents/guardians will be notified of excessive absences. On the 10th excused or unexcused absence, the student *may be* removed from the class (and consequently fail the class). School related absences (i.e. sporting events, club events, and/or field trips) do not count towards the 10 days. This is an Arizona State Law.

Cheating

Cheating is not tolerated. Copying and plagiarizing are cheating, even if it's only 5% of an assignment. If cheating is discovered further steps will be taken (refer to page 11 of the student handbook for further explanation). The typical consequence of a first offense is a zero for the assignment.

Diversity Statement

All individuals have a right to an educational environment free from bias, prejudice and bigotry. As members of the Basha High School educational community, students are expected to refrain from participating in acts of harassment that are designed to demean another student's race, gender, ethnicity, religious preference, disability or sexual orientation.

Conference

Conference period will be on Wednesday and Thursday from 9:19 - 9:44. During this time students are only allowed out of the classroom if they have a pass from another teacher or a colored club pass. The library is not available during conference. Students should use this time to be productive.

Lab Component

The use of the lab is one of the most important components of this course as it requires the student to utilize their higher-level thinking skills as well as communicate the knowledge they are specifically addressing. Laboratory exercises incorporate the inquiry-based portion of this course. Students are given the opportunity to critically interpret and analyze their data, and report their conclusions in a laboratory report. Students organize and maintain a journal of their laboratory investigations. Students submit these journals with data, analysis, conclusions, and future explorations highlighted after each lab for evaluation. If a formal lab write-up is assigned, students are required to submit a typed report that includes the following components: title page, introduction/background, hypothesis, data, data analysis, conclusions, limitations, and future research possibilities. Students are given about one week post lab completion to submit their full report.

Student Assessment

Students are assessed weekly with reading quizzes, and/or pre/post lab quizzes. They have unit exams, projects, AP style practice exams, and lab practicals. Students are evaluated on their level of performance in lab, the formal lab write-ups, bringing in current events, and homework.

Grading Policies

Exams & Quizzes	60%
Graded Work	25%
Completion Credit	15%

Class grades are based on the traditional grading scale: 100%-90% = A, 89%-80% = B, 79%-70% = C, 69%-60% = D, 59%-0% = F.

Semester grades are calculated according to the school's grading policy, 40% first quarter, 40% second quarter, 20% final exam.

Students earn AP grading by completing exam corrections.

**Parents can access their child's grades and assignments by going to the school's website and clicking on Parent Connect. Students' information is only accessible by using an individualized password assigned by the school. Parents may contact office personnel/counselor for their child's password.

Grade Change Incentive

If a student scores a 3 on the AP Exam, the instructor will do a semester grade change for both first and second semester. The grade change ensures that the student will receive **one letter grade** higher for both semesters up to the maximum of an 80%. This means that a "D" will be changed to a "C", or a "C" will be changed to a "B" for earning a 3 on the AP Exam.

If a student scores a 4 or 5 on the AP Exam, the instructor will do a semester grade change for both first and second semester. The grade change ensures that the student will receive an "A" (at least 90%) for both semesters regardless of previously earned semester grades.