



**ADVANCED PLACEMENT BIOLOGY
MR. GARCIA
COURSE SYLLABUS**



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A. Introduction:

The main course goal is to prepare each of you for the A.P. Exam that will be taken in May, and you will be eligible to earn college credit. The goal is to make you aware of important information, new techniques, turn you on to the study of the world around you, and the relevance Biology has in your life. Throughout this class, you will develop analytical skills, be introduced to new laboratory techniques, and refine your written communication. The AP Biology Curriculum is framed around eight units:

- 1. Chemistry of Life**
- 2. Cell Structure and Function**
- 3. Cellular Energetics**
- 4. Cell Communication and Cell Cycle**
- 5. Heredity**
- 6. Gene Expression and Regulation**
- 7. Natural Selection**
- 8. Ecology**

We will tie these eight units every single day throughout the entire year. This course is very rigorous and requires much time and effort to succeed. As a result, I hope that you develop a passion for the subject matter, as well as discover a real world connection. It is my expectation that you come to class prepared each day (with assigned readings and any daily work done before arrival) so you can be actively involved in classroom discussions and activities.

B. Course Description:

The Advanced Placement Biology course is designed to be the equivalent of a *College Introductory Biology Course* taken by science majors during their first year. A college biology course differs significantly from the usual high school course in respect to the textbook used, the range and depths of topics covered, the laboratory work done by students, and the time and effort required. Again, each night you need to read the material which will be discussed in class the next day. In addition, if you have difficulty when reading about specific topics, you may want to utilize “youtube.com” to find educational video clips to help with understanding.

C. Requirements:

1. **Classroom Materials:** Morris, Castignetti, Lepri, Relyea, *Biology for the AP Course*. Bedford, Freeman & Worth Publishers., chromebook, classroom notebook, pencil, pen, college-ruled paper, drawing paper, graph paper, colored pencils or markers, glue stick, ruler, scissors, index cards (3 x 5), and 4-function calculator or graphing calculator.
2. You will need to come prepared to class every day with classroom materials, assigned readings, and homework. A lecture class will include a mixture of Nearpod Google slide presentations, discussions, case studies, and problem solving questions.
3. We will be doing 8 AP labs (2 per Unit) as well as a few additional ones to help enhance your knowledge and understanding of the topics of the year. You will be asked to answer analysis questions after all of the laboratories, as well as graphing and manipulating data. For each of the AP

labs, you may be asked to write a full lab report, mini-poster presentation, or Google slide presentation, take a pre-lab quiz, or take a post-lab quiz. The laboratory experience will give each of you the opportunity to learn new physical skills, learn to work in groups, find out how biology really works, and create student driven experiments. You will be given the laboratory instructions several days in advance so you can come prepared to work. You will find that in the 8 AP labs, you will be required to “design your own experiment” in order to ask a question. This student-driven learning will carry over into other activities done in the classroom.

4. You will be required to complete an AP Biology Notebook that involves all bellringer questions, notes, assignments, labs, and activities. This will be checked and turned in at the end of each semester. To keep track that the notebook is being completed, I will do audit checks at the end of each six weeks to ensure efficiency.
5. Test questions will be similar to the A.P. exam that involve both multiple-choice questions and free response questions. You will be given several AP practice exams prior to the AP Biology exam taken in May. The Personal Progress Checks (PPC) will be assigned to check for understanding of concepts and to practice taking AP style questions.

D. Classroom Website: You may access the following classroom websites at the following addresses

www.sausd.us/valley
classroom.google.com
Canvas website

You may use these websites to get the syllabus, powerpoints, lab directions, handouts, assignments, and additional science websites.

E. Behavior: Your purpose for being in school is to learn. Any behavior that disrupts the learning process for you or your classmates will not be tolerated. Therefore, the classroom rules will be monitored.

F. Discipline Plan:

Rewards for following rules:

1. Verbal and/or Written Praise.
2. Given Extra Credit.
3. Receive Token Awards.
4. Receive Outstanding Citizenship.



Consequences for not following rules:

1. 1st Offense = Verbal Warning (Redirect)
2. 2nd Offense = Teacher Conference and/or Seat Change
3. 3rd Offense = Phone Call Home
4. 4th Offense = Behave Out and Parent Conference

G. Grading Scale:

- 90% - 100% = A
80% - 89% = B
70% - 79% = C
60% - 69% = D
0% - 59% = F



H. Absences:

You **Must** bring a note or phone call to the attendance office to be excused for absence. You are responsible for making up any work that you missed. If you are absent on the day an assignment is due, you must turn it in on the day that you return.

I. Academic Honesty:

It is your job to convince me that you are not cheating. Ways to convince me:

1. **Keep Your Eyes On Your Own Paper or Chromebook Screen.**
 2. **Keep Your Answer Sheet or Chromebook Screen Covered.**
 3. **Avoid Copying Information from Online Websites and Resources.**
- Plagiarism will not be tolerated.



I have read the class description and class requirements with my son/daughter.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____