

2018-2019 AP Biology Syllabus

Your Instructor

Dr. Sharon Thomas and Mr. Robert Miller

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Main Goals of the Course

AP Biology is an introductory college-level biology course. 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 AP Biology course is designed to enable the student to develop advanced inquiry and reasoning skills, such as designing a plan for collecting data, analyzing data, applying mathematical routines, and connecting concepts in and across domains. The result will be readiness for the study of advanced topics in subsequent college courses — a goal of every AP course.

Expectations

This is NOT a class for passive learners. You are expected to be actively engaged in this course through class discussions, class activities and laboratory experiments. It is expected that you will spend several hours per week reading/working problems. If you stay on top of your reading and homework, there will be no need to cram for an exam.

Textbook and Additional Readings

An electronic version of **Campbell Biology**, 11th edition will be provided. Additional readings will be assigned that include primary literature, classic papers and current articles relevant to the lecture topics. Part of a lecture each week will be devoted to discussing this material. Your participation in these discussions will be part of your final grade.

There is a very large amount of material covered in this course. Students are expected to have read the material **before** lecture and/or laboratory experiment; be prepared to listen, ask questions, and discuss the lecture material.

Lab Fees

Please consider donating \$20.00 for the purchase of lab materials.

Class Attendance

Students are expected to attend and participate in class. You are responsible **for all material and announcements made in class**. If you are excessively absent, your class participation grade will reflect those absences.

Grading

Your grade for this course will be determined as follows:

Exams and quizzes (40%)

Homework (5%)

Labs/Activities (40%)

Cumulative final exam (10%)

Class participation (5%)

The following scale will be used to assign letter grades: A 88-100; B 80-87; C 70-79; D 65-69; F <65

Tentative Course Schedule

Unit 1: Biochemistry Unit ~3 wks

Unit 2: Cell Unit ~ 3 wks

Unit 3: Enzymes/Metabolism Unit ~ 4 wks

Unit 4: Heredity Unit 5 wks

Unit 5: Molecular Genetics~5 wks

Unit 6: Evolution~5 wks

Unit 7: Ecology~2 wks