

AP Biology and Lab Syllabus 2019

Richmond Community High School
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Richmond, Virginia 23222

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Textbook (provided): Campbell, Neil and Reece, Jane B. 2008. *AP Edition Biology*, Eighth Edition, San Francisco, CA: Pearson Benjamin Cummings

Lab book (provided): *AP Biology Investigative Labs: An Inquiry-Based Approach*, The College Board, 2012

Recommended: Barron's AP Study Guide and Flashcards

Lab fee: There is a \$15.00 lab fee for all Honors science courses. This fee is due Friday, September 13, 2019.

Introduction and Purpose:

AP Biology is designed to be the equivalent of a two-year semester college introductory biology course. The class is conducted at the college level and students are expected to work accordingly. AP Biology differs significantly from a traditional high school biology course in regards to time, effort, commitment, and motivation required from the students.

This course is designed to be taken by students after successful completion of high school biology and chemistry. At the completion of this course, students are expected to take College Board's AP exam. Students are expected to demonstrate critical thinking skills through their answers to both multiple choice and essay questions. In addition, the web-based platform Canvas will be used, students will be expected to maintain an interactive notebook, and to complete formal lab reports. Students will learn how to synthesize their thoughts into formal lab reports and projects.

Expectations:

All students must adhere to the RCHS and class rules:

- Arrive on time. Be in your seat before the tardy bell rings
- If you are tardy, sign the tardy form upon entering class
- Stay on task
- Cooperate with your team - Your participation is a vital part of this course!
- Listen to all directions; write all assignments in your agenda
- Keep up with the class information
- Maintain your interactive/lab notebook
- Do not miss labs, since lab write ups are required and labs will not be repeated
- Be organized and prepared for class ([see materials list](#))
- Do your very best each class; complete all assignments; don't be afraid to ask for help!

- If you were absent, check for your own missing work
- Turn in all makeup work as needed
- No talking while the teacher or a classmate is talking. Show respect for all. Do not criticize ideas or thoughts of others.
- NO FOOD, CANDY, DRINKS, GUM, etc. in the classroom or lab area
- Respect all property: the school's, your own, and others'
- Attend mandatory after school and Saturday sessions as necessary
- At the end of the period, stay in your seat until dismissed
- Have fun!!!

Materials:

- ❑ 1 college ruled 100 pg composition notebook (provided by Ms. Spencer)
- ❑ 1-3 folders (optional; everything will go in interactive notebook)
- ❑ Highlighters
- ❑ Pencil & Pens (blue or black)
- ❑ Graphing calculator (provided)
- ❑ Liquid "school" glue
- ❑ 1 toilet paper roll
- ❑ 1 roll paper towels

Laboratory Investigations:

Investigations are designed to promote critical thinking, to analyze and interpret data, and to form conclusions. **All students are expected to follow all lab safety rules.** All students are also expected to clean their work stations appropriately. **If you are absent for a lab, you must contact the teacher within 2 days of your absence and arrange a time to make up the lab.**

Attendance, Tardiness and Absences:

Students must try to attend every class. It is necessary that you understand the impact that tardiness and absence can have on your academic progress. If at all possible, try to arrange outside appointments for after school.

If a student is tardy to their class, they must sign the tardy book upon entering class, indicating the time they arrived, whether they have a pass, and their reason for being late. Students are then responsible for making up any missed work and collecting missing assignments from the teacher.

Procedure for multiple tardy offenses:

First - Warning

Second - Parent contact

Third - Lunch detention and parent contact

Fourth - Referral to the principal, and parent/guardian conference

It is your responsibility to secure any missed assignments and/or notes. If you miss an assignment, test, quiz or lab, it is your responsibility to make it up within a **one day period** of your return. **You may find your missing work in the “Absent” folder for your class.** If you miss a test or quiz, you will need to arrange a time with your teacher to retake the assessment.

Note: you will receive a different exam from the one your class took when you were absent.

Note: Quizzes and tests must be retaken within one week of the absence. If not taken within that time period, the student will lose 25% of the assessment grade. If the assessment is not taken by the end of the quarter, the student will receive a zero.

Extenuating circumstances should be discussed with the teacher and substantiated by a written note from your parent/guardian. All planned absences should be shared with the teacher ahead of time and all assignments gathered before leaving. All assignments should then be submitted to the teacher upon your return.

Late or Missing Work Policy:

Students are expected to submit all work on time. A penalty will be imposed when assignments are not submitted on time. **For each day late without a legitimate, written excuse, 25% will be deducted from the assignment.** This may result in the loss of points or a grade of zero. Your parents will be contacted when you miss an assignment and a record will be kept in order to apprise the principal of repeat offenders.

Grade Breakdown:

Grades will be based off of a percentage grade system:

Assessments (tests, binder, lab notebook, and projects): 40%

Quizzes: 20%

Homework: 20%

Classwork: 20%

Check system: a check system will be used to grade certain assignments quickly, based on effort and completion.

✓- 50%

✓ 60%

✓+ 80%

✓++ 100%

****Note: This list of assignments is not exhaustive; these are only the major categories**

Interactive/Lab Notebook:

Students will learn how to maintain an interactive/lab notebook this year. This will reinforce each student's critical thinking skills and creativity, and may serve as a portfolio for

the student to keep. This will be graded and checked on a weekly basis in order to ensure the student is maintaining it accordingly. Laboratories will be performed online and at the lab bench. Materials for the notebook will consist of activities, notes, snapshots, and other materials that the student will be instructed to glue in.

Saturday Sessions:

Students will be required to attend AP College Board Saturday sessions toward the end of February, based on their choosing. During these sessions, students will have the opportunity to take a full length AP exam and review for the test. Students can also perform lab experiments as necessary and if approved by the instructor.

Required Tutoring Sessions:

Tutoring will be held on a select day every week after school until the end of the year. Students who attend tutoring will gain extra credit points for attending the full session. Students must arrange transportation home.

AP Biology Single Block:

We are on a single block schedule, which means we have a lot to cover in a short amount of time! Some days we will do labs, and other days we will do activities to help you prepare for the AP exam. It is imperative that you keep up with your assignments in and outside of class so that you do not fall behind - we will be chugging right along!

My Goals for This Course:

1. I learn from you and you learn from me
2. You learn *how* to think
3. You learn organizational skills
4. You enjoy science and how to apply it to other topics
5. You pass the AP exam
6. We have fun and learn a lot!