

Course Description

A. P. Biology is a challenging and comprehensive course. It is the equivalent of a first-year college Biology course, including labs. Because college labs meet in addition to course lecture time, students in A. P. Biology are scheduled for extra time during the lunch hour several days per cycle. Students also commit to taking the College Board's Advanced Placement Biology exam in May; high scores on this exam are recognized by most colleges and universities, enabling students to satisfy certain college requirements while in high school. Students taking this course should expect to devote approximately 45 minutes per night on average on the readings and other assignments..

Syllabus (subject to change)

Week	Topic(s)
1	Course logistics and overview of AP Biology; Taxonomy
2	Evolution, AP Lab 8
3	Evolution; Unit Test
4	Behavior; AP Lab 11
5	Ecology, AP Lab 12
6	Ecology; Unit Test
7	Chemistry; Biochemistry
8	Biochemistry; AP Lab 2
9	Biochemistry; Unit Test
10	Cell Structure and Function; Mitosis
11	AP Lab 3; Cell Membranes
12	AP Lab 1; Unit Test
13	Overview of Cell Energy; Photosynthesis; AP Lab 4
14	AP Lab 4; Cellular Respiration
15	AP Lab 5; Unit Test
16	Meiosis; AP Lab 3
(semester break)	
17	Mendelian Inheritance
18	Mendelian Inheritance; AP Lab 7
19	Unit Test; Chromosomes; DNA
20	Protein Synthesis; Genetic Control Mechanisms
21	AP Lab 6; Genetic Technologies
22	Development; Unit Test
23	Diversity: Viruses, Bacteria, Protists
24	Diversity: Fungi, Plants; Unit Test
25	Diversity: Animals
26	Diversity: Animals; Unit Test; Anatomy and Physiology Overview
27	Human Systems
28	Human Systems; AP Lab 10
29	Human Systems
30	Human Systems; Unit Test
31	Plant Tissues, Nutrition and Transport; AP Lab 9
32	Plant Reproduction, Growth and Development
33	Additional Labs/ Wrap-up of Course
34	Additional Labs/ Wrap-up of Course
35	Additional Labs/ Wrap-up of Course

Textbook Reading Assignments (f = Freeman, Biological Science; otherwise, Starr & Taggart, Biology: UDL)

Week	# Chapters to Have Read	Week	# Chapters to Have Read
Summer	1, 17-20, 45	13	20f, 21f
01	46 (or 51f), 47	14	22f; 21 (or 27f and 34f)
02	48, 49, 50	15	22 (or 28f), 30f,
03	2f, 3f	16	23 (or 29f),
04	4f, 5f	17	25, 26, 27 (or 31f, 32f, 33f)
05	6f, 7f	18	28, 41f
06	8f, 11f	19	42f, 43f (or 42, 41)
07	7 (or 10f)	20	44f, 49f (or 38, 40, 39)
08	8 (or 9f) 21	21	45f, 46f (or 34, 35, 37)
09	10 (or 12f)	22	47f, 48f (or 36, 43, 44)
10	11, 12 (or 13f)	23	35f; 36f (or 30)
11	14f; 14 (or 15f and 16f)	24	37f, 38f (or 30, 32)
12	15 (or 17f and 18f), 19f, 20f	25	39f, 40f (or 32, 31)

Keeping to this recommended pace means the student will read and take outline notes **well in advance** of when the material will be discussed in class. This is most helpful to the student in the 4th quarter of the school year. At that time the pace of class notes becomes very fast and the homework emphasis switches from reading the textbook to reviewing and integrating concepts from multiple units.

Grading

A. P. Biology tests challenge students to understand and apply the concepts they have learned. Each test consists of 25 – 40 multiple choice questions and an essay question; this combined format is similar to the A. P. exam. Because of the level of difficulty, students are required to make corrections to improve their test grades. More importantly, this gives students the chance to realize their misconceptions and to learn from their mistakes. After the first test of the year, each test includes several review questions from previous units. (50% of quarter grade)

Students write formal lab reports for most of the required A. P. investigations. Each word-processed lab report includes an introduction, data tables and graphs as needed, and an analysis of the results. Students will also be expected to access an online review of the A. P. labs and complete accompanying Lab Bench Quizzes before doing the A. P. labs in class. Other labs will also be completed. (25% of quarter grade)

Finally, students are expected to contribute to class discussions, write practice essays (especially in the 4th quarter when students are assigned several practice essays per week), take quizzes for some chapters, work through activities in the resource manual, and respond to non-textbook readings. (25% of quarter grade)

Each student and his/her parent or guardian is to sign this course description sheet, acknowledging having read it. This form is accessible on the Ridgeview web site.

Student signature

Parent/Guardian signature