

Advanced Placement Biology
Mrs. Abraham
2008-2009

Description of Course

This course is designed to be the equivalent of a two-semester college introductory biology course. This class differs significantly from the usual high school biology course with respect to the kind of textbook used, the range and depth of topics covered, the type of lab work done by students, and the time and effort required of students. This class aims to provide students with the conceptual framework, factual knowledge, and analytical skills necessary to deal critically with the rapidly changing science of biology.

Major Themes Covered

Science as a Process, Evolution, Energy Transfer, Continuity and Change, Relationship of Structure to Function, Regulation, Interdependence in Nature, and Science, Technology, and Society

Expectations of Students:

- Self-motivation to do your best and ownership of learning
- Be prepared for class by keeping up with the assigned readings and bringing supplies to class.
- Maintain open communication with the teacher.
- Be respectful, responsible, and curious!
- Spend 0.5 to 1 hour each night completing homework and studying.

Recommended Supplies

3-ring binder or folder with loose-leaf paper and graph paper
black and blue pens
#2 pencils and colored pencils or markers



Grading Policy

Participation: (10% of grade) Thirty points will be awarded for participation each six weeks. Fifteen points will automatically be awarded to students, but each time a student is tardy, a point will be deducted. Fifteen points will be awarded using a participation rubric.

Homework: (20% of grade) You will USUALLY be given two days to complete homework. Example: Homework assigned on Monday will be due on Wednesday; homework assigned on Thursday or Friday will be due on Monday. Homework is accepted until 2:40pm the day it is due or 2:40pm of the next school day for 10% off. **I do not accept late work.** Homework is usually checked for completion. Don't leave questions blank; always try!

Homework can be emailed to me, but remember – I only have Microsoft Word. If you are using WordPerfect, you need to save your assignment in Rich Text Format. **Computer/printer failures are not acceptable excuses for late work.**

Labs: (25% of grade) A “cookbook” is required the day of the lab. This is a visual representation of the steps in the procedure, letting me know you have previewed and understand the lab prior to coming to class. Lab answers are checked for correct understanding of the concepts being studied and analysis of the data gathered.

If you are absent the day a lab is performed, you are expected to make it up after school the first day you are back. If you are on a field trip, you are expected to stay after school that day to make it up. If you do not make it up, a 3-5 page research paper is an acceptable alternative assignment.

Tests: (35% of grade) In order to best prepare students for the AP exam, two tests will be given for every unit – a multiple choice test and an essay test. **Students may retake multiple choice tests** as long as they continue to increase their score. Tests must be retaken before or after school by appointment. Students will receive the highest grade earned on the test.

Students can earn up to 10 points extra credit for each test by taking online quizzes for each chapter and earning at least an 80% on each. There will also be evening review sessions several days before a test from 6-8pm for any students who need some extra help.

The semester exam is worth 10% of the final grade (not included in the 35%).

Extra Credit: There will be opportunities for extra credit at various times throughout the year. If you choose not to complete the extra credit available, no other extra credit accepted.

Student Expectations

Be in class. CHS policy states that students will lose credit after the 12th absence during a semester. It is very hard to catch up on the work and notes missed.

If you are absent, you can **check the website (www.quia.com/pages/abeapbio.html)** for information. **You WILL be expected to take quizzes or tests on the day you return.** Worksheets passed out will be in the folder corresponding to your class period.

Be in your seat with the necessary materials when the tardy bell rings. For each tardy, you will lose participation points. In addition, you will receive a warning for the first tardy. For every subsequent tardy, you will be assigned a 30 minute detention.

Eating and drinking are NOT allowed according to school rules. **If you bring food and drink into the classroom, you will be asked to throw it away.** Water is the only exception to this rule.

If I see a cell phone, I will collect it and you can pick it up at the end of the day. If this happens more than once, I will turn the phone into the main office.

You will NOT be allowed to go to the bathroom during direct-instructional time or while watching videos, so use the passing time wisely!

Follow all rules as stated in the parent/student handbook.

Communication

If at any time during the school year, you are feeling anxious about an assignment or have questions, you have three ways to contact me or check up on class activities.

- 1) class website: www.quia.com/pages/abeapbio.html
- 2) my email: mrsabraham@hotmail.com
- 3) my school phone: 360-833-5750



AP Test Incentive

Students may earn a better semester grade based on their AP exam results. For those earning a 5 on the exam, they are eligible to receive up to a one letter grade bump for both semesters or two letter grades in a single semester. Students receiving a 4 on the exam are eligible to bump up their grade by one letter for one semester only or a half letter grade for both semesters. Those earning a 3 on the exam may choose to bump up their grade by a half letter (from a B to a B+) for one semester only. To be eligible for the grade bump, students must have turned in all regular course work throughout the year or in the semester for which they would like to bump their grade. Students are responsible for bringing a grade change form to me and initiating the grade change.