

ADVANCED PLACEMENT BIOLOGY

Advanced Placement Biology is intended to parallel a first year college course for the biology major. To meet this goal, students are required to successfully complete a chemistry course before entering the course. While not a requirement, a year of Biology may be helpful to the student.

The class meets four forty-five minute meetings a week, plus one ninety-minute meeting a week. The shorter meetings are used for lecture/discussion, demonstrations, and labs that can be performed in the time interval. The longer meeting is used primarily for student-centered laboratory investigations or audio-visual supplements to the curriculum.

Assignments will involve **readings** from the text as well as **two types** of written exercises. **Homework** will be given on a regular basis, usually in the form of study questions, which can be dealt with by listening closely in class and by reading your text. These questions will require you to think a bit about the subject, not just copy out of the text. Past classes have found them to be very useful in picking up some of the big ideas of a chapter. It is important that you at least TRY to answer these questions. While these need not be written out, they will often be discussed in class, so your effort will be rewarded. The other form of written assignment is a **lab report**. These will require you to report your data and relate it to major biological ideas. We have tried to get away from longer, "formal" reports and reduce your writing time by having you use your data to answer questions pertinent to the topic. It is important that you give these adequate amounts of your time! You will be given assignment sheets to help you contend with all of this. Be sure to look at them daily! Assignments must be handed in ON TIME.

Tests will be given roughly every three weeks. Students will be tested on their command of the subject matter as well as their ability to apply it in problem-solving situations. Tests may be multiple-choice, short essay, long essay, or a combination thereof, and will contain questions relating to recent lab investigations. Tests constitute the major portion of your grade in this class, so be prepared for them. If you have problems with them, or the subject, be sure to see me before and after tests. Lab quizzes will be given after each lab. These will deal with the basics of the concepts, results, and apparatus involved with the lab. They will be announced.

Laboratory investigations will be varied. Many will entail the use of instruments and the gathering of data. Others, such as the plant anatomy lab, will be more qualitative in nature. Students are expected to further develop their skills in the analysis of data, the formulation of broader concepts from data, as well as in the use of apparatus encountered in a typical college biology lab.

MATERIALS

Text: Campbell, N, **BIOLOGY**, 9th ed. and **Objectives**

You should give particular attention to the objectives provided for each chapter. These will be of great help in keeping you focused upon what we consider to be most important parts of the unit. Many students find it helpful to write out responses to the objectives. This can take a great amount of time, and so it is recommended that it be done as a group, each member being responsible for only part of the objectives.

Helpers:

CD that comes with Campbell

Contains nice animations and presentations that can be very helpful.

Study guide for Campbell's Biology.

This contains an extended summary of the text as well as helpful questions and exercises to aid in your learning. "Concept Outlines" sections of each chapter. There is a fair amount of material to learn in this class, and these may help you to develop a more meaningful understanding of it all!

Essays Questions from Biology APs

The Bio AP has four essays on it, so you need to be able to write a decent, AP level essay. The essay topics usually deal with a fundamental concept in life science, so reviewing these essays will help you in assessing your understanding of these concepts. These are used to formulate essay questions for your tests.

Grading System	Unit tests, quizzes, and 1 st sem. final(counts as two unit tests)	75%
	Laboratory reports	25%