

## AP Biology Course Syllabus

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Room 522

### Introduction

Hello and welcome to AP Biology! As an AP Biology student, you will be able to learn biological concepts at the college level, using quantitative and inquiry based techniques both during class time and laboratory. We will cover material very quickly and our laboratory investigations will be thorough. I expect a year filled with interesting discoveries, new experiences and a deeper understanding of Biology.

### Text Book

Campbell, Neil A. and Reece, Jane B. *AP Edition Biology*. 10<sup>th</sup> ed. San Francisco: Pearson Education, 2014. Print. (Also: Study Guide & AP Test Manual to accompany text)

### Class Supplies & Requirements

Although there are no specific requirements, here are some suggestions for success:

- 3-ring binder and school supplies (paper, pens, pencils)
- spiral bound notebook to keep focused notes ("3 or 5 subject" spiral should be sufficient)
- art supplies – markers, colored pencils etc. (keep at home for projects & drawings)
- composition laboratory book dedicated to AP Biology
- flash drive
- index cards
- scientific calculator AND a four function calculator (for AP test)
- a study group of no more than four students (outside of class) *that meets weekly*

### Class Norms and Expectations

This class is designed to be equivalent to a college level biology course. As such, you have the opportunity to gain college credit before you enroll in a college or university of your choice by scoring a 3 or above on the AP Biology exam. You are expected to take the AP Biology test in May. If you are absent from class, you need to make up the work within two days with a valid re-admit. For example, if you were absent on a Monday, the work for that day would be due by Wednesday morning. No other late work will be accepted in AP Biology. Quizzes or tests will usually fall on a Friday. I will let you know when there is a quiz. You will also need to bring in your **covered book every day**, as we will likely discuss what you read the night before on the next day of class.

In general, these are the rules for our class:

1. Be respectful of your teacher and your peers. Be willing to listen to the comments of others.
2. Come prepared for class. This means to:
  - a. arrive on time;
  - b. do your own work (no plagiarizing – see *Lancer handbook*);
  - c. arrive ready to discuss what was assigned for reading; and
  - d. bring appropriate materials to class (writing utensils, notebook, paper, composition lab book if needed, text book).
3. Make sure you are not eating or drinking anything in the lab areas, including gum. It is o.k. to have water on your desk in the front area of the classroom, but no water bottles, food, gum or candy allowed in the lab area.
4. All electronic equipment is to be turned "off" and put out of sight during class time and laboratory activities (unless I specify you can use it).

### Grades

The grading scale will be:

- 89 – 100 % A
- 79 – 88.9 % B
- 69 – 78.9 % C
- 56 – 68.9% D
- 55 % or below F

Points will be assigned based on the following categories:

Tests/Quizzes	45%
Lab Write-Ups	30%
Participation	15%
Homework	10%

There will be no "curving" of grades during the actual semester; however note that the semester 1 and 2 grades will be curved at the end.

### Curriculum Organization

AP Biology is divided into four **big ideas**. These are then broken down into **enduring understandings**, **essential knowledge**, and finally **learning objectives**. The four big ideas used in this course include:

1. *The process of evolution drives the diversity and unity of life.*
2. *Biological systems utilize free energy and molecular building blocks to grow, to reproduce, and to maintain dynamic homeostasis.*
3. *Living systems store, retrieve, transmit, and respond to information essential to life processes.*
4. *Biological systems interact, and these systems and their interactions possess complex properties.*

In AP Biology, you will be asked to “think like an accordion.” We will focus on the big ideas, link them to other big ideas, and link large-scale concepts to small-scale concepts.

### **AP Exam Breakdown**

The AP exam in Biology consists of two sections: multiple choice and free response. Both sections include questions that assess students’ understanding of the big ideas, enduring understandings, and essential knowledge and the ways in which this understanding can be applied through the science practices. These may include questions on the following:

- the use of modeling to explain biological principles;
- the use of mathematical processes to explain concepts;
- the making of predictions and the justification of phenomena;
- the implementation of experimental design; and
- the manipulation and interpretation of data

The AP Biology exam is 3 hours long. The first half will be multiple-choice and the second half free response with a mandatory 10 minute reading period. Each half of the test is worth the same amount of points.

<b>Section</b>	<b>Question Type</b>	<b>Number of Questions</b>	<b>Timing</b>
<b>I</b>	Part A: Multiple Choice	63	90 minutes
	Part B: Grid-in	6	
<b>II</b>	Long Free Response	2	80 minutes + 10 minute reading period
	Short Free Response	6	

*[Source: College Board Workshop Handbook]*

### **Valuable Web Sites/E-mail Information**

- Mrs. Brasov’s school email: [ebRASOV@nlmusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:ebRASOV@nlmusd.k12.ca.us)
- Edmodo (for AP Biology): [www.edmodo.com](http://www.edmodo.com) (I will give you the group code in class)
- Weebly class web site: <http://ebRASOV.weebly.com/ap-biology.html> (main class website)
- College Board: <http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/home>
- Schoology: [www.schoology.com](http://www.schoology.com) (I will give you the group code in class)
- Turn it In: [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com)

### **Parents**

Please sign below once you have read the syllabus. Thank you.

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Student Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent e-mail

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

I will be sending home a copy of the lab safety guidelines with your child, which they need to sign and return.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Brasov

(562) 868-0431 ext. 4522     [ebRASOV@nlmusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:ebRASOV@nlmusd.k12.ca.us)