

A. Course Title: AP Biology 2020/2021

Instructor: Mr. McManamon

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B. Course Description

Advanced Placement Biology is a college level class. We will be moving rapidly through the textbook and sometimes will need to cover more than one chapter a week. It is essential that you read the material ahead of time so that you are prepared for class. It is impossible for me to go over all of the material in the chapter myself especially if you are not trying to understand the material on your own. You should already have a grasp of basic Biology concepts and I should not have to "teach" these concepts again. We will be going into greater depth and you are responsible for knowing the basics, already.

B. AP Classroom

- * Make sure you add yourself to AP Classroom for Biology. We will be following the course sequence there. An estimated number of days is given for each unit, but will be somewhat flexible.
- * There are Progress Checks that are assigned at the end of each unit. These will not be a part of your grade but are a way for you to measure your own knowledge against what AP expects. Since these questions are designed by AP Central, they will reflect the type of questions you will see on the AP exam in May. Some of these may seem difficult at the beginning of this course, but you will see these same type of questions throughout the year and they will become easier to answer.

C. Online Discussions

- * Since this is a completely different way to teach AP Biology, we have to adhere to certain rules during online discussions. This is also a good time for you to ask questions and get further clarification on the concepts.

D. Grading Procedure

- * Grades are recorded as a percentage of a possible 100.
- * I will be assigning a quiz or test each week. Keep up with your homework and reading. These will be taken during the class period and will be part of your grade.
- * Copying something off the internet and posting it without putting it in your own words

is considered plagiarism, which is a type of cheating.

* Your final grade in June for both semesters is also dependent on your score on the AP Exam. If you take this exam and do well, your grade for both semesters can go up, depending on your score. Your score on the AP Biology exam will not lower your grade in class.

* You are being graded on what you know and the concepts you have mastered. You should be able to EXPLAIN the concepts we cover in your own words and not just understand definitions of key terms. This is a college level course. The only way I can tell if you are understanding the material is by your class participation, test, and quiz scores. Keep up with the work, read ahead of time, complete any study guides before the next class, actively participate in class discussions, make a concerted effort to do well on exams, and go over your tests and quizzes and you will do well in this class.

E. Homework

* Textbook Reading: Very Important! Read the book nightly, stay up-to-date and be prepared to ask or answer questions in class. You are responsible for knowing most of the material BEFORE we discuss that chapter in class.

* Whether it is expressly assigned or not, your homework every night is to review the material, notes, reading, etc.

* Remember, this is a year long class, not just two separate semesters. You must know ALL the material we cover throughout the year. This class builds upon knowledge throughout the year, much like learning a new language.

F. AP Exam

* At this point, we have no idea what the exam in May will look like. This last May, it consisted of two, free response questions which covered many different concepts in the same question. There were no multiple choice questions, so being able to explain concepts in writing is an important part of this class.

G. Extra Help

You may contact me through email, if you have any questions outside of class hours.