

Syllabus: AP Biology

2017-2018

Barstow High School

Room 921

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Extra Hours: M, T, R, F: 2:35-3:00
For a specific appointment purpose, please schedule in advance

I. Rationale:

The AP Biology course has been designed with a focus on enduring, conceptual understanding rather than traditional content-coverage. This approach enables students to spend less time on factual recall and more time on inquiry-based learning of essential concepts and will help develop the reasoning skills necessary to engage in the science practices used throughout the study of AP Biology.

To foster this deeper level of understanding, students will develop advanced inquiry and reasoning skills through designing plans for collecting data, analyzing data, applying mathematical routines, and connecting concepts across domains. The result will be readiness for the study of advanced topics in subsequent college courses—a goal of every AP course.

II. Organization:

The AP Biology course has been structured around the four big ideas and the enduring understandings. All essential knowledge will be presented and all learning objectives will be met through this curriculum. The big ideas 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 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.

III. Class Resources

Textbook: Campbell: *Biology in Focus*, 2nd Edition: AP version (2017).
Pearson Website: *Student access codes to be provided upon final enrollment*
College Board AP website: www.collegeboard.org
Course and Exam Description: collegeboard.org/digitalServices/pdf/ap/ap-biology-course-and-exam-description.pdf
Lab Book: <http://www.collegeboard.com/html/apcourseaudit/courses/pdfs/cb-biology-lab-manual-1-24-12.pdf>
AP Biology Google Classroom and various related websites
Bozeman Biology: <http://www.bozemanscience.com>

IV. Requested Supplies

Basic, four-function calculator (scientific calculator not allowed on test—do not use for this class)
Colored pencils (and sharpener), pencils, pens (a four-color, all-in-one pen is easiest)
1 ½ inch binder
Binder dividers (optional)
Graph paper
Assorted lab supplies on occasion for inquiry labs
Reliable Internet Provider
Desktop or Laptop Computer

V. Grading Procedures

Infinite Campus is the district gradebook program. Students have access to their grades, attendance, and other pertinent information on the student portal. Grades are posted in a timely manner; students are advised to tend the site regularly. If you cannot log in, please let me know.

Summer session is required of all AP students. Students not completing the summer session will be subjected to a 10% deduction in the final grade for Semester 1, and in fact will be encouraged to drop the course. Summer session dates were posted at the parent and student meetings conducted in early Spring, 2017. The dates are: June 12-15, 2017. Summer session will culminate in a test during the first week of school in August to check for understanding and readiness for the course. It is our desire to assure that students enrolled are academically fit and ready to take on the challenge of this course.

A mock test is required of all AP Biology students. Students not completing the mock test will be subjected to a 10% deduction in the final grade for Semester 2. Mock test dates will be posted after winter break. For now, plan on a Saturday in or near early Spring. Additionally, study sessions are scheduled in after-school hours to further prepare students for the AP Test.

The AP Test in May is required; students study regularly in preparation for this exam. Failure to take the test will result in a 10% grade reduction. College credit may be issued for successful completion of this test (check prospective college websites for requirements). Mid-terms (Quarter 1 and Quarter 3) and final exams (Semester 1 and Semester 2) are scheduled toward the end of the terms. Watch student agendas for scheduling of these tests.

Assignments comprise learning logs, journal notes, laboratory reports, website posts, handouts, oral justifications, web-based assignments, exams, and other exercises that extend student learning. Participation is graded as a regular component of all work. It is expected that students will be actively engaged in course work and not allow distractions.

Grades are assigned using the Barstow Unified School District default system:

0-59%	F
60-69%	D
70-79%	C
80-89%	B
90-100%	A

Grades are categorized and weighted as follows:

Assessment	30%
Classwork	35%
Labwork	25%
Summer Work	10%
Semester 1	
Mock Test	10%
Semester 2	

VI. Laboratories:

Laboratory investigations make up 25% of the class time in AP Biology. Students will maintain a written record of their labs, complete with hypotheses, data, anecdotal observations, graphs, and analyses. Students must execute the seven science practices spelled out by the college board:

- Use representations and models to communicate scientific phenomena and solve scientific problems.
- Use mathematics appropriately.
- Engage in scientific questioning to extend thinking or guide investigations within the context of the course.
- Plan and implement data collection strategies appropriate to a particular scientific question.
- Perform data analysis and evaluation of evidence.
- Work with scientific explanations and theories.
- Connect and relate knowledge across various scales, concepts, and representations in and across domains.

Safety instructions are required before any equipment may be used. A basic lab safety contract is included in the syllabus for student and parent signature.

VII. Expectations

Barstow High School adheres to Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS). We use the PRIDE acronym to remind us that Preparation, Respect, Integrity, Determination, and Excellence are cornerstones of character. These will be explained more as the year progresses and as the need arises. A poster in room 921 summarizes PRIDE in evidence statements as they pertain specifically to the class. Additionally, students should follow the *Barstow High School Student Handbook* to the letter.

Specifically, Room 921 is a focused, electronics-free territory. I do not want to see any evidence of a cell phone at all. Multi-tasking is a myth. Our brains cannot perform two functions simultaneously. Be respectful of your own learning and realize that those around you will be distracted also as you scroll through information on your device. If you are asked to put away your device (in excess of this written expression), you forfeit your ability to earn participation points that day for whatever assignment is at hand. I understand that your devices connect you to your friends and family, but the classroom should be a place apart, however briefly, from the outside world and distractions. You will learn more if you concentrate on the course while you are here. Your classmates and I thank you for not impeding our ability to learn.

The California Education Code and Barstow High School prohibit food and drink in a science classroom. Please do not bring food and drink into the classroom. This is a rule students should be accustomed to, especially for science labs.

Make every effort possible to attend school regularly. Absences (because of the missing work that piles up) are the number one reason for poor grades in my experience. If you are absent (school-related or personal), it is your responsibility to check the calendar board and work file for assignments you have missed. If you require additional information, please schedule an after-school session. If you miss a test or a lab, you may be required to make it up after school, and the task may be different from that which was assigned to classmates. Board Policy states that you may have one day for each day absent to make up work. Tardiness is a distraction to be avoided; refer to school guidelines and be in your seat at the bell. Being present in class is being present in all modes—mind, body, and spirit. Committing yourself fully to the present enables more complete learning and mastery of content.

Each student in this course is expected to abide by the Barstow High School Code of Academic Integrity (refer to student handbook). Any work submitted for academic credit must be the student's own work. Should copying occur, both the student who copied work from another student and the student who gave material to be copied will automatically receive a zero for the assignment. During examinations, you must do your own work. Talking is not permitted during the examinations, nor may you compare papers, copy from others, or collaborate in any way. Any collaborative behavior during the examinations will result in failure of the exam. To thine own self be true; character counts.

If for any reason, at any time, you feel that you cannot keep up, have work not turned in, or for whatever other reason feel that you are not making the type of progress you expect or having the positive experience you desire, please see me after school--The sooner, the better. Do not allow yourself to suffer; do not allow your grade to drop. Seek help. Together, I am sure we can come to a satisfactory solution.

I am committed to providing an atmosphere for learning. While working together to build community I ask all members to:

- stow backpacks and totes under tables
- practice safety as a primary concern
- come prepared and be prepared
- remain organized
- follow clean up procedures at dismissal
- participate consistently
- share unique experiences, values and beliefs and honor the uniqueness of others
- appreciate the opportunity that we have; learn from each other in this community
- communicate in a respectful manner and abide communication norms

For all we know, there is that much more we do not know.

STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING AND COURSE CONTRACT

Miss Bowser's AP Biology Class 2017-2018

I have read the syllabus course information, guidelines, and expectations of Miss Bowser's AP Biology class and understand its contents. I will respect class norms.

Student Name	Period
Student Signature	Date
Parent/Guardian Signature	Date

Student Safety Contract

I, _____ (student's name) have read and agree to follow all of the safety rules set forth in this contract. I realize that I must obey these rules to ensure my own safety, and that of my fellow students and instructors. I will cooperate to the fullest extent with my instructor and fellow students to maintain a safe lab environment. I will also closely follow the oral and written instructions provided by the instructor. I am aware that any violation of this safety contract that results in unsafe conduct in the laboratory or misbehavior on my part, may result in being removed from the laboratory, detention, receiving a failing grade, and/or dismissal from the course.

Student Signature

Date

Dear Parent or Guardian:

We feel that you should be informed regarding the school's effort to create and maintain a safe science classroom/laboratory environment. With the cooperation of the instructors, parents, and students, a safety instruction program can eliminate, prevent, and correct possible hazards. You should be aware of the safety instructions your son/daughter will receive before engaging in any laboratory work. Please read the list of safety rules placed in the student's science journal. No student will be permitted to perform laboratory activities unless this contract is signed by both the student and parent/guardian and is on file with the teacher.

Your signature on this contract indicates that you have read this Student Safety Contract, are aware of the measures taken to ensure the safety of your son/daughter in the science laboratory, and will instruct your son/ daughter to uphold his/her agreement to follow these rules and procedures in the laboratory.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date