



AP Biology (545)

Teacher Contact/Assistance Information

Mr. O'Malley

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Out of class availability: I am available every day **before** and after school for extra help except for the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month. Please make your plans accordingly and kindly provide 24 hrs notice if you plan to stay after school or meet before school.

How to get help: Students can access assistance on any course related assignment by first consulting Google Classroom, then by contacting the teacher.

Course Description

In this second-year biology course students will experience a curriculum that parallels the standard freshman college course emphasizing cellular and molecular biology. The course is aligned to the Advanced Placement curriculum provided by the College Board with substantial significance placed on application of content to situations and data analysis. Students are required to take the AP exam in the spring.

Course Materials

Textbook: *Biology tenth edition: Solomon, Martin, Martin, and Berg*

- Students are expected to designate a notebook specifically for AP Biology, and bring that notebook to class everyday.
- Students are required to also have a specific lab notebook.
- Students must come to class with a writing instrument i.e. pen, or pencil.
- Students are required to have a folder, or binder to store handouts and laboratory procedures, this must be brought to class everyday.

Classroom Expectations and Consequences

There are three basic rules, besides the ones stated in the school handbook, that I expect to be followed.

1. Be on time. Arrive to class on time and be in your seat and ready to work when the bell rings. Tardiness will result in loss of points on your final grade.
2. Hand in assignments on time. It is the responsibility of the student to be prompt and punctual with the completion of the assignments.
3. Be respectful to me and your classmates. I will treat you with respect and I expect the same in return. Speaking out of turn, swearing, ridiculing someone else, being disruptive, or name calling are all examples of disrespect. This will not be tolerated.

Grading Policy

Every assessment and assignment in a semester is worth a predetermined number of points. The semester grading formula is as follows: 80% of the semester coursework (summative assessments, interim assessments) + 20% of the final exam = the final semester grade. The final grade for the course is the average of both semesters.

Your quarter grade will be 50% interim and 50% summative.

Assessments...

Summative Assessments (Product): Performance and Proficiency Tasks which are GRADED within a unit/end of unit.

Interim Assessments (Progress): Graded practice towards performance and proficiency. Informed by Science dept. rubrics, teacher generated rubrics, % grade scale. Examples include skill assessments, class tasks, some unit assessments, some projects. Frequency: weekly.

WHS Work Habits (Process): Aspects of behavior that enable a student to meet the demands of a course in accordance to standards and school policy. Informed by the WHS Work Habits Rubric. Examples include in class formative assessments, homework, entrance/exit activities. Frequency: reported each quarter.

Do-overs...

Students have the opportunity to “do over” two assessments per quarter in each course within ONE school schedule cycle of receiving the scored assessment. Students must sign the [WHS Reassessment Contract](#) with their teacher to clarify the procedures within two school days of receiving the scored assessment. The reassessment score is your final score. Students cannot redo the same assessment more than once. Students cannot “do over” an assessment that they made no genuine effort in completing. This option is only available for students who complete and hand the assessment in on the original due date. Your teacher has the discretion to grant or deny this contract per this condition.

Students are only eligible to request a reassessment if they demonstrate a genuine effort on the original assessment. This opportunity is reserved for those who complete and submit the original assessment by the due date. Granting this reassessment contract is at the discretion of the teacher, based on these conditions.

- Students must sign a WHS reassessment contract with their teacher to clarify the procedures within two days of receiving the scored assessment.
- The reassessment score is your final score.
- Only **two** reassessment opportunities are allowed per quarter.
- All reassessment opportunities must follow reteaching.
- Students are permitted only one opportunity to redo a given assessment.

Late work...

It is the expectation that all work (assignments and assessments) is turned in by the established due date.

Makeups/Absences...

All make-up work (due to an excused absence) will be completed within a reasonable amount of time upon the student's return (a reasonable amount of time is **5 school days**.per the handbook). Unexcused absences will require students to be prepared the first day of return following the absence.

Academic Integrity...

Westerly Public Schools recognizes the need for all students to assume responsibility for their own work. Academic integrity must be preserved not only for its own sake but also to ensure objective evaluation of all students. Cheating and plagiarism in any form cannot be permitted; downloading and copying information from websites without appropriate citations is prohibited*. In a case that involves cheating, the following actions will be taken:

1. Parent/guardian(s) will be contacted by the teacher and/or an administrator. A conference may be scheduled.
2. The student's work will be rejected and a grade of —zero will be imposed for the assignment in question. Completion of the make-up work related to the assignment in question will be determined by the classroom teacher; academic credit will not be given for the make-up work.
3. The student may be assigned a school consequence at the discretion of administration.
4. If more than one student is involved in cheating, the same penalty will be applied to all parties concerned. Students who allow their work to be copied are considered to be cheating.
5. In the case of cheating, an administrator may impose a suspension.
6. The theft of a teacher grade book or testing materials will result in a suspension.
7. Students found to have plagiarized or to have cheated will be immediately dismissed from the National Honor Society and Rhode Island Honor Society.

Monitor your Progress

Students are responsible for evaluating their own performance on all assessments and assignments. Students should access the Powerschool student portal to monitor their grade throughout the course. In addition to monitoring grades, students should also self-reflect on the progress of their work habits.

Other Relevant Course Information

Advanced Placement Biology Content ([Click Here for Pacing Guide](#))

This particular AP course is ultimately structured around four big ideas and enduring understandings within the big ideas as described in the AP Biology Curriculum Framework.

One of the major driving forces for instruction and assessment is the arena of the “Big Four”

Big idea 1: The process of evolution drives the diversity and unity of life.

Big idea 2: Biological systems utilize free energy and molecular building blocks to grow, to reproduce and to maintain dynamic homeostasis.

Big idea 3: Living systems store, retrieve, transmit and respond to information essential to life processes.

Big idea 4: Biological systems interact, and these systems and their interactions possess complex properties

In addition, there is also a revamped emphasis placed upon inquiry in the lab and the use of the seven guiding science practices throughout the course.

Science Practices (SP)

1. The student can use representations and models to communicate scientific phenomena and solve scientific problems.
2. The student can use mathematics appropriately.
3. The student can engage in scientific questioning to extend thinking or to guide investigations within the context of the AP course.
4. The student can plan and implement data collection strategies appropriate to a particular scientific question.
5. The student can perform data analysis and evaluation of evidence.
6. The student can work with scientific explanations and theories.
7. The student is able to connect and relate knowledge across various scales, concepts and representations in and across domains.