

AP Biology Syllabus for 2026- 2027

Dr. Terri Kanner

Welcome to AP Biology! I'm excited to have this opportunity to work with you.

This year we will use Canvas as the central hub for distributing and submitting coursework, an interactive online learning platform for instruction, and the College Board AP Biology website for AP-aligned resources and assessments.

This course is self-paced. Assignment due dates are posted in Canvas to support steady progress but are not strictly enforced; all required work must be completed and submitted before the AP Exam in May in order to earn a grade. Students who consistently fall behind schedule may find it difficult to complete the course on time, so steady progress is strongly encouraged. Instructor-created lectures are not provided, as instruction is delivered through non-instructor-created interactive learning materials and College Board resources, making separate lectures redundant.

Class websites:

We will be using three websites:

1. **CANVAS**

- This website will be used to distribute assignments, and it is where work will be submitted.

2. **COLLEGE BOARD**

- This website will be used to provide you with AP-sanctioned videos and for course assessment in the form of multiple choice and free response question progress checks and assessments. Students must **JOIN AP Biology** on the College Board Website.

§ Instructions and the *JOIN* code are in the Welcome to Biology Canvas Module.

3. **INTERACTIVE LEARNING SITE**

- This website will be used for interactive learning of key course content. Information is presented in video and written format. Interactives include interactive reading, quizzes, and flashcards. Students will need to register for this website. The cost is ~ \$39.95. Instructions are provided in the Welcome to Biology Canvas Module.

Textbook

[OpenStax Biology for AP Courses](#) – this will be our primary text. It is available via free internet access, free download, or purchased as a print copy.

Campbell Biology, 11th edition – this text may be used as a supplementary reference text or in place of the OpenStax Biology text.

- Authors: Lisa Urry Michael L. Cain Steven A. Wasserman Peter V. Minorsky Lisa A. Urry
- Book identifier: ISBN-13: 978-0134093413 ISBN-10: 0134093410 (The book cover has a picture of a sunflower on it.)

Additional Learning Material

SimBio Virtual Labs – SimBio Labs will be assigned during the course of the semester. The cost for each lab is \$7.50. Total cost will not exceed \$50. Instructions have been provided in the Welcome to Biology Canvas Module.

Due dates and times

- This is a self-paced course. Work is assigned a pacing (due) date to support steady progress, but these dates are not enforced. All required work must be completed and submitted before the AP Exam in May in order to earn a grade in the class. Students are encouraged to follow the pacing dates closely to ensure adequate preparation.

Grading Scheme

*Percentages indicate the weight that particular category will have on the final grade.

Assignment	Percent	Notes	Late Penalty
Learn-Biology (L-B) Student Learning Guides (SLG)	25%	Scored for thoughtful completion; these also serve as AP Exam study review.	- 1 point/day late
Learn-Biology Quizzes	15%	Completed via Learn-Biology; scored as points earned ÷ points possible.	No late submissions will be accepted.
Laboratory Work & Learning Activities	30%	Most labs scored as points earned ÷ points possible; some receive full credit for submission. Some activities graded for accuracy, others for thoughtful completion.	- 2 points/day late
Progress Checks	5%	Multiple-choice; scored for thoughtful completion.	- 1 point/day late
Unit Assessments/Quizzes	25%	Multiple-choice and free-response	- 1 point/day late

*Note: Students must complete all required work to be awarded a grade in this course.

Grading Scale

Grade	Range	Grade	Range
A+	98–100	C+	78–79
A	93–97	C	73–77
A-	90–92	C-	70–72
B+	88–89	D	60–69*
B	83–87	F	<60**
B-	80–82		

* D = No credit from Aim on official transcripts.

** F = Failing. No credit.

Grades

- Grades will be updated continuously in Canvas as you complete work. Official transcript grades will be calculated and submitted in May.

Course Goals & AP Biology Framework

The learning objectives and course goals for this AP Biology class are fully aligned with the College Board **AP Biology Course and Exam Framework**. All instruction, assignments, laboratory investigations, and assessments are designed to prepare students for success on the AP Biology Exam.

This course integrates both the Science Practices and the Big Ideas required by the College Board:

- **Science Practices** – Students will develop skills in:
 - Concept explanation
 - Data representation and analysis
 - Visual model interpretation
 - Experimental design
 - Scientific argumentation
- **Big Ideas** – Instruction emphasizes the four overarching themes of AP Biology:

1. Evolution – The process of evolution drives the diversity and unity of life.
2. Energetics – Biological systems use energy and molecular building blocks to grow, reproduce, and maintain homeostasis.
3. Information Storage & Transmission – Living systems store, retrieve, transmit, and respond to essential life information.
4. Systems Interactions – Biological systems interact, and these interactions possess complex properties.

By structuring course goals around these practices and ideas, students will be thoroughly prepared for both the AP Biology Exam and future study in the biological sciences.

Scope & Sequence

First Semester

- Unit 1: Chemistry of Life
- Unit 2: Cell Structure and Function
- Unit 3: Cellular Energetics
- Unit 4: Cell Communication and Cell Cycle

Second Semester

- Unit 6: Gene Expression and Regulation (*completed before Unit 5*)
- Unit 5: Heredity
- Unit 7: Natural Selection
- Unit 8: Ecology