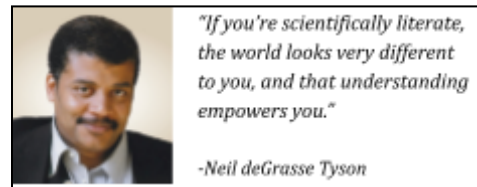




COURSE OVERVIEW

Biology is the study of life, and AP Biology gives us the chance to explore it in all its richness. From the molecules that fuel cells to the flow of energy through ecosystems, biology shows us the patterns that connect all living things. This course is not only about learning science, it is about experiencing the wonder of life itself and developing the skills to study it deeply.



AP Biology is organized around four big ideas. The first is that evolution drives the diversity and unity of life. The second is that biological systems use energy and building blocks to grow, reproduce, and maintain homeostasis. The third is that living systems store, transmit and respond to information in order to function. The fourth is that biological systems interact in ways that give rise to complex properties. These big ideas will guide everything we do, helping us see the unity that runs through the complexity of biology.

My goal is for you to grow in scientific literacy, which means being able to ask questions, design experiments, and interpret evidence in order to better understand the living world. More importantly, it means being able to apply biological knowledge to the issues and discoveries that shape our lives.

Above all, this class is a shared journey. As we uncover the beauty and complexity of life together, I hope you will find inspiration in biology and confidence in your ability to explore the natural world with curiosity and wonder.

CLASS PRINCIPLES

Bainbridge High School represents a variety of backgrounds and perspectives, and is committed to providing an atmosphere for learning that respects diversity. For that to occur, I ask that you:

- Share your unique experiences, values, and beliefs
- Be open to listening other's opinions
- Honor the uniqueness of your classmates
- Appreciate and respect the opportunity we have to learn from each other
- Communicate in a respectful manner

GRADING POLICIES

Bainbridge High School reports grades at the end of each semester; progress reports are available for at the end of Term 1 and 3. Letter grades are calculated using the grading scale to the right.

Coursework – You will be required to complete various assignments both in class and as homework. These assignments are designed to prepare you for upcoming activities and/or provide you with practice using skills or concepts that have been introduced in class. Remember, all of your assignments will lead to a major lab report, project and/or assessment. Be sure to save all work, keep organized and avoid falling behind. Assignments will be graded according to the provided rubrics and/or instructions. This category is worth 10% of your grade.

Assessments – In AP Biology there are three main types of assessments: quizzes, unit exams, and laboratory investigations. Together they make up 90% of your overall grade.

Grade Mark	Description	High	Low
A	A	100.00%	93.00%
A-	A-	92.99%	90.00%
B+	B+	89.99%	87.00%
B	B	86.99%	83.00%
B-	B-	82.99%	80.00%
C+	C+	79.99%	77.00%
C	C	76.99%	73.00%
C-	C-	72.99%	70.00%
D+	D+	69.99%	67.00%
D	D	66.99%	60.00%
F	F	59.99%	0.00%

Quizzes are shorter check-ins on recent material. They help you practice AP-style questions in smaller chunks and give me a sense of what we need to revisit. **Quiz scores always stand as earned.**

Unit exams are longer and more comprehensive. They include multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions modeled after previous AP Biology exams. You will always receive a study guide at least one week before a unit exam. These exams are meant not only to measure your knowledge, but also to prepare you for the pace and style of the AP test in May.

Laboratory investigations are at the heart of AP Biology. All scientific knowledge begins with inquiry, and labs give you the opportunity to design experiments, collect data, and communicate your results in formal lab reports. These investigations will often require you to apply statistics and mathematics to interpret your results. **Lab reports may be revised and resubmitted to demonstrate deeper understanding.**

Projects and long-term investigations may also be included as assessments. These are opportunities to apply biology to real-world contexts and to show your ability to think critically and creatively about life science.

Reassessments – Reassessments allow you to recover grade credit if you are not satisfied with your performance on an assessment. You are limited to two reassessments per semester, and you must have completed all the required coursework for a unit in order to earn the privilege to reassess.

Before you can reassess, you are required to complete a test edit. Test edits involve carefully answering all of the questions you missed and showing me that you understand the material more fully after a second pass. *Because AP exams are secure College Board materials, test edits must be completed in the classroom.*

Once edits are complete, you may schedule a reassessment. Reassessments may improve your score up to 100%, and I always record the higher of the two grades. In other words, if you happen to do worse on the reassessment, you will keep your original score.

If you prefer, you may choose to stop after the edit process. In that case, your edited test may raise your score up to 80%. You will always receive instructions for edits and reassessments when I return graded tests, and you will have two weeks to complete the process.

There are no reassessment opportunities for projects or the final test of each semester.

Rounding Grades – rounding a semester grade is a *rare exception*. If your final semester grade is within 0.5% of the next highest letter grade, I *may consider* rounding up if you have *consistently*...

1. Submitted all coursework portfolios on time
2. Reassessed tests when you had the opportunity
3. Asked questions to clarify concepts you did not understand
4. Followed lab safety procedures and kept your workspace clean and organized
5. Collaborated constructively with lab partners
6. Arrived to class on time and limited breaks to a minimum
7. Stayed focused in class and minimized distractions
8. Maintained [academic integrity](#) in all aspects of the class

USE OF AI

Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools such as ChatGPT or Google Gemini can be valuable resources for learning, but they are not a replacement for your own thinking. You may use AI to help brainstorm ideas, check your understanding, or explore different ways of approaching a problem. However, all work you submit must reflect your own reasoning, analysis, and voice.

Assignments generated fully or primarily by AI will not be eligible for credit. Relying on AI to do the work for you will limit your growth and your ability to succeed in this class and on the AP exam. Using AI well means allowing it to guide your learning, not replace it. When in doubt, ask me how AI might be used appropriately for an assignment.

SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS

Turning in work – Any assignments should be turned in by the due date according to the written or verbal instructions.

Late Work – Assignments are due on the dates listed in Google Classroom. If an unexpected conflict arises, email me before the due date to arrange an alternate deadline. Late work without prior communication may not receive credit.

Extra Credit Policy – Grades are based on mastery of the course material through assignments, labs, and assessments. Focused effort on these components is the best path to success.

SUPPLIES & FEES

Please bring the following with you to class every day.

- A binder or folder to store coursework and handouts
- Writing utensils, a few of which should be #2 pencils
- Your Chromebook *with* a charged battery and its charger
- A scientific calculator – any TI model 30 and above or its equivalent.
- A notebook of your choice for taking class notes and writing down questions, etc.

Your textbook: Campbell Biology in Focus 1st Edition (ISBN - 978-0321813800) should be checked out from the BHS library as soon as possible, and returned at the end of the year. You *do not need to bring it with you to class*.

Each student is assessed a \$30 fee per school year to cover consumable lab expenses. This fee is payable through the BHS online payment system or with Ms. Spray in the BHS accounting office. Fee waivers are available for families in need of financial assistance. For information on fee waivers, visit bhs.bisd303.org and search for “fee waiver” or see Ms. Spray.

There is a fee associated with taking the AP Biology test on May 4, 2026 of \$99.

GOOGLE CLASSROOM (GC) & SKYWARD

I post coursework, slide decks (i.e. class notes), and all pertinent learning resources to GC. It's the place to go if you're absent, want to know what we did in class, or just need to download a handout you forgot. Google Classroom is meant to *supplement* class attendance, *not replace it*.

Grades will be posted to Skyward as soon as possible. I never post grades to Google Classroom.

UNITS OF STUDY

Unit	Topic	Theme/Question	Tentative Timeline
1	Chemistry of Life	<i>How do the building blocks of life enable function?</i>	<i>September</i>
2	Cell Structure and Function	<i>How do cells live, work, and communicate?</i>	<i>September & October</i>
3	Cellular Energetics	<i>How do cells transform energy to power life?</i>	<i>October & November</i>
4	Cell Communication and Cell Cycle	<i>How do cells coordinate processes and reproduction?</i>	<i>December</i>
5	Heredity	<i>How is genetic information stored and passed on?</i>	<i>January & February</i>
6	Gene Expression and Regulation	<i>How is genetic information expressed and controlled?</i>	<i>February & March</i>
7	Natural Selection	<i>How does evolution drive diversity and unity of life?</i>	<i>March & April</i>
8	Ecology	<i>How do living systems interact with each other and the environment?</i>	<i>All year!</i>