

AP Biology 2024-2025

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Text: *Biology (9th edition, by Campbell)*

Course Description & Instructional Goals

Advanced Placement (AP) Biology is a course with content that is equivalent to an introductory college biology course. By successfully completing this class, students will improve their critical thinking and problem-solving skills, increase their understanding of a wide variety of biology concepts, and be prepared to take (and pass!) the AP Biology Exam on May 5th, 2025. Please note that because this course corresponds to a college level class, the expectations regarding the work completed in AP Biology are higher than for other high school classes!

Course Standards and Units

The College Board provided content guidelines will be used as the standards in this course. The following units of content will be covered:

Unit 1: Chemistry of Life

Unit 2: Cell Structure and Function

Unit 3: Cell Energetics

Unit 4: Cell Communication and Cell Cycle

Unit 5: Heredity

Unit 6: Gene Expression and Regulation

Unit 7: Natural Selection

Unit 8: Ecology

Instructional Activities

Students will participate in a variety of activities, lecture with frequent class discussions, lab experiments, and field investigations. Students are expected to access the class website for assignments and due dates.

Grading and Assessment

Grades are calculated by dividing the total points earned by the total points possible within weighted categories of **30 percent formative** (practice assignments/smaller labs), **70 percent summative** (exams/larger labs). Any student taking the course Pass/No pass must maintain a minimum of a “C” average to receive credit. There are **NO** extra credit assignments.

Late Work:

All work is due on the due date. Late work will only be accepted up to the date of the unit assessment. Late work received within a week of the due date will receive up to 70 percent of the score. Late work received after 1 week of the due date will receive up to 50 percent of the score.

Assessment/Demonstrating Understanding

The AP Biology curriculum is cumulative, meaning that individual standards are covered multiple times on different summative assessments (e.g., unit tests, lab reports, semester exam, and final exam). Students therefore will have multiple opportunities to demonstrate proficiency on standards. As per Corvallis School District policy, another opportunity is allowed to show improved understanding for each summative assessment. This opportunity will be in the form of half point corrections for each point missed **up to an 80 percent** on summative work. All relevant coursework should be complete and turned in before half point corrections on assessments are allowed.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to submit their own work. Prohibited acts of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to:

- Giving and receiving unauthorized assistance to and from other students
- Reproducing, reformatting, or paraphrasing the work of others as your own (plagiarism)
- Using or sharing prohibited study aids or other written materials on tests or assignments
- Sharing false information or knowingly misleading another to reach a false answer or conclusion
- Inappropriately modifying work without teacher approval

Attendance/Tardy Policy

AP Biology is an extremely challenging course, and enrolling in the class is a serious commitment. Skipping class or **exhibiting chronic tardiness is NOT acceptable**. Students **should not work on material from other classes while in AP Biology**. Students are expected to be present on exam days – these dates will be announced well in advance. It is up to the student to schedule a makeup if there are circumstances preventing them from making up the test in class. Absences must be excused before a make-up test is given.

Personal Electronics Policy

At no time should personal electronic devices such as cell phones or ear buds be out. There will be times when we might use personal electronic devices for instructional purposes and you will be informed of those times when it is appropriate. Here is [a link to the school district cell phone policy](#)..

Classroom Behavior Expectations

AP Biology is an advanced course and I expect behavior consistent with students in a serious course. All behaviors should support an environment conducive to learning.

The AP Biology Exam

It is my expectation that students enrolled in AP Biology will make every effort to take this exam. The AP Exam takes place on May 16th and is approximately three hours in length. A total grade for the AP Exam is reported as follows: 5 = Extremely Well Qualified, 4 = Well Qualified, 3 = Qualified, 2 = Possibly Qualified and 1 = No Recommendation. Scores of 3, 4, or 5 often qualify students for college credit and/or placement into higher-level biology courses and/or waiving of requirements. It is important to review the credit policies of colleges you are considering.