



## General Course Description:

AP Biology is a college level science laboratory course that covers major topics in Biology through the use of both class and laboratory activities with an emphasis on application of these topics. The class satisfies the “D” requirement for admission to a UC/CSU school. This class is eligible to receive an extra grade point for your GPA.

## Prerequisites:

- Successful completion with a grade of “B” or higher in Biology.
- Successful completion with a grade of “B” or higher in Chemistry.
- Science Teacher Recommendation

## Topics:

AP Biology is based on the College Board framework that covers 4 big ideas that encompass the study of Biology. Those ideas include:

- **Big Idea 1: Evolution**
  - The process of evolution drives the diversity and unity of life.
- **Big Idea 2: Cellular Processes/ Energy and Communication**
  - Biological systems utilize free energy and molecular building blocks to grow, to reproduce, and to maintain dynamic homeostasis.
- **Big Idea 3: Genetics and Information Transfer**
  - Living systems store, retrieve, transmit, and respond to information essential to life processes.
- **Big Idea 4: Interactions**
  - Biological systems interact, and these systems and their interactions possess complex properties.

## Laboratory

A component of the class involves lab activities where students experiment with major biological topics, become proficient at organizing and analyzing data, and use technical writing skills to communicate results. Labs are centered on the **7 Science Practices**:

1. Use representations and models to communicate and solve problems
2. Use mathematics appropriately
3. Pose scientific questions to extend thinking or guide investigations
4. Plan and implement appropriate data collection strategies for a specific scientific question.
5. Analyze data and evaluate evidence
6. Work with scientific explanations and theories
7. Connect and relate knowledge across scales and domains

## **Who Should Consider AP Biology?**

- Students who have a special interest/passion for science, specifically biology.
- Students willing to challenge themselves and be challenged.
- Students considering fields/careers in the sciences/engineering/medicine.

## **Expectations for AP Biology**

- Ability to adjust to a fast-paced class with greater depth and rigor in the coverage of biology topics
- High level problem-solving skills
- Ability to apply conceptual information to new situations including real-world applications
- Ability to ask questions when material is not understood and to seek deeper knowledge of topics
- Higher level of work quality in assignments

## **AP Biology Exam**

Students will be well prepared for the AP Biology exam through class activities, discussions, practice questions and exams.

### **Contact:**

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask!

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**I look forward to seeing you in AP Biology next school year!**