

Hamilton High School: AP Biology

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to AP Biology! You have enrolled in a yearlong course equivalent to a 1st year college biology class. It is intended as a survey of the many fields of study that comprise “biology”. This course covers a substantial amount of material; therefore, you will be expected to complete many lab and reading assignments outside of class. Additionally, you will have to actively apply your independent understanding and analytical skills to classroom discussion and laboratory activities. As an AP Biology student, you must be committed to a year of intensive study and will be expected to take the AP exam in May.

DUAL ENROLLMENT

AP Biology can be taken for college credits through the dual enrollment program at Chandler Gilbert Community College. AP Biology is equivalent to General Biology (BIO181) and students may earn four credit hours for completing the yearlong course. Please, see the class website for more information.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Campbell Biology in Focus, 3rd Edition

SUGGESTED SUPPLEMENTAL GUIDES

An AP exam review book is recommended for use throughout the year. There are many different options available for purchase: Barron’s, Crash Course, Cracking the AP Biology Exam, Preparing for the Biology AP Exam, etc.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

1. Class Notebook: 3 ring binder organized with dividers must be maintained at all times
2. Graphing paper
3. Calculator
4. Black ink pens & pencils

GRADING POLICIES

Grades are through Infinite Campus (<https://campus.cusd80.com/campus/portal/chandler.jsp>). Utilize the following steps: Enter the email address you provided to the school. Click submit. Open the email from Campus No reply and click on the link provided. You will then enter in a password and click Create My Account. You may then login to the parent portal with your new account.

Semester grades will be calculated on an 80/20 formula. The grading scale is:

- 90-100% = A
- 80-89% = B
- 70-79% = C
- 60-69% = D
- below 59% = no credit earned

Grades for the course will be computed based on a weighted average of your scores in the following categories:

Assessments	60%
Lab Reports & Associated Quizzes	25%
Participation/Homework Activities	15%

COURSEWORK

1. **Tests & Quizzes:** Exams will mimic the AP exam and therefore will consist of multiple-choice questions and free response questions, with time constraint. Quizzes may include multiple choice, vocabulary definitions, short answer questions, and free-response questions. Any content covered in the material covered directly in class or that you are responsible for reading/viewing/watching as homework could appear on a quiz or exam. The take-home message is that your independent work is crucial and must be done if you want to succeed. Please, be prepared by keeping up with your work.
2. **Homework:** All assignments are carefully chosen to enhance subject comprehension. Successful students spend approximately one hour outside of class for each hour spent in class. You should be doing something EACH night. Possible assignments may include vocabulary building, reading guides, web assignments, objective questions, and essay responses.
3. **Laboratory Work:** Several labs will be conducted throughout the year. Lab write-ups include both formal & informal write-ups, pre & post lab assessments, and occasional lab practicals. Formal labs will be due one week after completion of the lab.
4. **Participation/Content Discussion:** Content discussion will be a normal part of class. To make this as non-boring as possible, you are expected to interface with the content prior to coming to class. Very few things will make you feel worse than not being prepared!

VIRTUAL LEARNING EXPECTATIONS & POLICIES

1. **Late Work:** Assignments submitted past the assigned due date and time in Google Classroom will receive a 50% reduction in the earned grade and must be submitted within 24 hours of the original due date and time. Work submitted beyond this time frame will receive no credit.
1. **Missed Work:** It is highly recommended for students to attend all live sessions for their class period to be successful, as much of this time will not be able to be re-created. If you are unable to attend the session, it is the responsibility of the student to determine what occurred and obtain the missed work. Points acquired during live sessions can be earned via alternative assignments for students who are unable to attend. Posted assignments in Google Classroom are due by the assigned time whether the student attended the live session or not. If you have circumstances that requires a late submission for any assignment, you must reach out to me prior to the due date.
2. **Cheating:** Students are expected to demonstrate honesty and integrity while in attendance at Hamilton High School, and this will be especially crucial in a virtual learning environment. Giving aid, receiving aid or observing aid being given on any assignment is considered dishonest and will result in the score of a zero on the assignment. Copying homework is cheating and zero credit is given for plagiarized work. Please note that in addition to your grade dropping, NHS will also be notified.
3. **Attendance:** Attendance is based on engagement. If a student is not present for synchronous instruction and does not complete the asynchronous/alternative assignment for the daily class meeting, then the student is considered absent. Teachers will contact attendance clerks once a student is determined to be absent.
4. **Behavior:** Students are expected to follow basic school rules when engaging in virtual instruction. Here are some additional rules: be on time, use a quiet location, be prepared with required materials & a charged device, mute yourself when not speaking (raise your hand to speak), wear appropriate school attire, and be respectful.
5. **Appropriate Use of Technology (board policy IJNDC-R):** The Governing Board intends that technological resources provided by the District be used in a safe responsible and proper manner in support of the instructional program and for the advancement of student learning. It is the policy of the Chandler Unified School District to maintain an environment that promotes ethical and responsible conduct in all electronic resource activities by staff and students. The District reserves the right to monitor use of the District's systems for improper use without warning or prior consent. Students shall be informed that computer files and electronic communications, including

email, are not private and may be accessed by the District at any time. Inappropriate use may result in disciplinary action and/or legal action in accordance with the law and Board policy. Please visit the student handbook at <https://www.cusd80.com/handbooks> for further details about appropriate use of technology use.

BRICK & MORTAR EXPECTATIONS & POLICIES

Classroom Policies

1. **Late Work:** Homework will be collected at the beginning of the period on the due date and any work turned in after that time will be considered late. Late work will receive a 50% reduction in the earned grade and must be submitted by the following class period. Work submitted beyond this time frame will receive no credit.
2. **Missed Work:** "I was absent" is not an excuse for missing an assignment. The class website will be updated with the agenda and links to the missed work. You have the equivalent of the number of the days you missed to make-up missed assignments. Missed labs may require an alternative written assignment. Missed work due to an excused absence must be made up after school. Obtaining missed work is the responsibility of the student.
3. **Cheating:** Students are expected to demonstrate honesty and integrity while in attendance at Hamilton High School. Giving aid, receiving aid or observing aid being given on any assignment is considered dishonest and will result in the score of a zero on the assignment. Copying homework is cheating and zero credit is given for plagiarized work. Please note that in addition to your grade dropping, NHS will also be notified.
4. **Attendance:** It should be expected that with such a rigorous course, any absence from class would be discouraged. We cover an extensive amount of material each day, of which some assignments cannot be fully made up. Any material missed due to an unexcused absence will receive no credit. A.R.S. §15-803 (B) states that absences may be considered excessive when the number of absent days exceeds ten percent of the number of required attendance days prescribed in A.R.S. §15-802. Ten percent equates to nine (9) days of absences per semester regardless of whether they are excused or unexcused. Students with excessive excused absences will be required to provide medical documentation to remain in class and excuse any further absences. If additional absences occur, and medical documentation is not provided, the student will be referred to administration.
5. **Behavior:** Students are expected to follow all school rules to allow for a safe learning environment, including the use of school appropriate language. The first offense will result in a warning, the second a call home, and all subsequent offenses will be referred on to administration. Cell phones are not allowed to be used during class, unless otherwise instructed by the teacher. Phones will be confiscated and held until after class for the first offense. The second offense will require that students pick up their phones in the security office.
6. **Tardy Policy:** The first tardy will result in a warning, the second a call home, and all subsequent tardies will be referred on to administration.
7. **Safety:** Safety is a major consideration in any science laboratory. All students will be required to sign a safety contract and pass a safety assessment before participating in the laboratory. Students who do not observe and practice classroom safety procedures and school rules will not be permitted to participate in lab and receive a zero for that assignment.
8. **Food/Drink:** There is no gum, food, or drink allowed in the classroom, except for water bottles.

TUTORING

AP Biology is a rigorous course and at times, you may find yourself in need of extra assistance. One of the best ways to be successful is to attend tutoring as soon as possible when you are confused. Mrs. Kenyon will be available through Google Meets from 2:15 to 3:00 on Mondays and Thursdays, or by appointment. Once we return to the school building for brick & mortar instruction the same office hours will be held in person.

ATTITUDE

Students are expected to have a positive attitude while in the classroom. This includes respecting fellow classmates, the classroom, and all equipment. Further, students are expected to work hard in this class. Grades are not handed out, but rather earned by the student. I encourage all of you to work to the best of your ability, be respectful, responsible, and accountable for your actions. In return, you can expect the same from me!

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

All individuals have a right to an educational environment free from bias, prejudice and bigotry. As members of the Hamilton High School educational community, students are expected to refrain from participation in acts of harassment that are designed to demean another student's race, gender, ethnicity, religious preference, disability or sexual orientation.

SYLLABUS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This is a contract stating the promise of the student and the teacher to follow the covered guidelines that encourage student success. By completing the acknowledgement in Google Classroom, all parties have agreed to adhere to the information provided in this syllabus, the Flinn safety contract, and classroom expectations (all documents will be posted in our Google Classroom and the class website).

NOTE

This syllabus is a working document as is subject to change, by the teacher, as new circumstances arise in instructional needs due to the COVID-19 pandemic.