



Ms. Wendy Rago
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Course Description and Overview:

This course is designed to be the equivalent of a college introductory biology course usually taken by biology majors during their first year. The primary goal of this course is to provide students with the conceptual framework, factual knowledge, and analytical skills necessary to deal critically with the rapidly changing science of biology. This course is structured around the four big ideas:

Big Idea 1: The process of evolution drives the diversity and unity of life.

Big Idea 2: Biological systems utilize free energy and molecular building blocks to grow, to reproduce and to maintain dynamic homeostasis.

Big Idea 3: Living systems store, retrieve, transmit and respond to information essential to life.

Big Idea 4: Biological systems interact, and these systems and their interactions possess complex properties.

Class Rules and Procedures:

- Be respectful- yourself, others, teacher, surrounding environment
- Be prepared.
- Be prompt
- Ask for help

Students are expected to:

1. Be prepared every day by doing the selected reading and homework, reviewing vocabulary, and formulating questions
2. Be ready to actively engage in the class
3. Perform at college level on all work
4. Devote 5-7 hours per week to this class
5. Prepare for labs by reading the objectives, understanding the underlying concepts, knowing the steps of the procedure, and performing pre-lab work.
6. Turn in assignments on time – **late work will result in a reduction of 10% every day late**
7. Complete assignments **INDEPENDENTLY**
8. Be available after school on AP BIO lab and Review days
9. Regularly visit the College Board website: <http://www.collegeboard.org/ap/biology>
10. Ask for help if you need it
11. Be responsible for your OWN learning process!!!

Behavioral/ Academic/Tardy Consequences:

1. Warning
2. Parent Phone call/ Referral to Dean for assigned consequence (*Determined by administrator*)

Materials:

- 3 Ring binder (1 ½ -2")
- 2 dividers (**Notes, Lab Work**)
- Pens (**at least 2 different colors**), pencils, highlighter
- Basic four function calculator
- Colored pencils
- Materials for individual projects as needed

Due to the "hands on" nature of this course, we will be collecting a **\$15.00 donation** using <https://palmbeach.schoolcashionline.com>
This request is a one-time voluntary payment. No penalty of any type will be imposed against a student based on the failure to pay. ****Please visit the website above and look for the Science Department \$15 Lab Fee****

Textbook: *Biology*, 8 th edition. By Neil A. Campbell, Jane B. Reece. Pearson/Benjamin Cummings. 2005. The website to accompany the main text providing animations, tutorials, investigations, power point instruction. www.campbellbiology.com

Recommended Books: These additional books can be purchased new and used by the students to help study for the AP exam.

- Kaplan (various authors). *AP Biology Test Prep*, Simon & Schuster, Inc., (most recent edition).
- Princeton Review (various authors). *Cracking the AP Biology Exam, (College Test Prep)*

Attendance:

- Tardiness and absences will be handled in accordance with the "Parent-Student Handbook" and "Code of Conduct."
- Attendance for afterschool review sessions in March, April, and May and for completion of labs.

Grading:

Various assessments will be given and worth the following:

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Tests: 50% | Quizzes: 20% | Labs: 20% |
| | All other assignments: | 10% |

Tests and Quizzes:

Tests and quizzes will mostly be multiple-choice questions, with free response questions included throughout the unit.

Make-up work / Tests:

If a student misses work due to an excused absence, it is the student's responsibility to obtain the makeup work (including notes) and turn it in according to the "Parent-Student Handbook."

- Tests and quizzes are announced in advance. The material and topics covered are part of ongoing work in class and you are expected to keep up. Therefore, you may not be excused from taking a test or quiz due to one absence.
- If you are absent (excused) the day of a test or quiz you will make-up the test/quiz the day of your return **afterschool**.
- Any work due the day of the excused absence is due the day you return.

- Any missed Labs must be **scheduled** and made up **afterschool** within 2 days of absence to avoid receiving a zero for the assignment.

Content: This course planner may change in response to student needs, district testing, and calendar changes. (see separate course planner pages)

AP Biology Success Tips:

- Skim through designated chapters. Pay attention to bold words. Read reviews (summaries) at the end of each chapter. Take abbreviated notes during lecture. Review, refine, and organize the information after lecture.
- Pay attention to illustrations, examples, and applications.
- Write your own questions, re-write notes, summarize key concepts, use index cards to define terms and major concepts. Represent the material you want to remember visually (concept maps, flow charts, etc...)
- Make up acronyms to help you remember sequence of events or successive parts. Form associations with words and ideas you want to remember. Use imagery. Explain concepts to yourself out loud.....**DO NOT RELY ON MEMORIZATION!!**
- Use a calendar/agenda to help plan out your assignments and study time.
- Form study groups with your peers and meet regularly to study.
- Find animations and videos online to help explain a topic.

THIS PAGE IS TO BE RETURNED TO MS. RAGO!



A.P. BIOLOGY SYLLABUS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

Student Name: _____ (**PLEASE PRINT!**) Period: 1

* Student Allergies/ medical issues to know about: _____

Declaration of Understanding:

I acknowledge that I have read and understand the information outlined in Ms. Rago's syllabus. I understand that all school rules also apply in this classroom. I am aware of what is expected of me in A.P. Biology class and the class procedures needed to ensure a successful year. ***I will work to my fullest potential with consistent effort and a positive attitude.***

Student Name (Print) Student Signature Date _____

Parent Name (Print) Parent Signature Date _____

***REMINDER:** <https://palmbeach.schoolcashonline.com> to make voluntary Science Department \$15 Lab Fee Donation. **THANK YOU!**

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