

AP Bio Syllabus 2020-21

Mr. Miller mamiller@washoeschools.net

A message from me:

Thanks for taking AP Biology. There's a lot of reasons to take AP Biology. I've heard people say it is because they are in the medical academy or maybe they just really liked freshman years science class because it wasn't chemistry. Biology is a lot different from chemistry so I hope you guys are ready to read a whole lot of information. I'll try to keep the activities fun and exciting while we can't move around or interact!

Actual information

Every AP class has an exam guide. The guide for Biology can be found here:

<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/pdf/ap-biology-course-and-exam-description-0.pdf>

A more in-depth breakdown of the topics can be found in the guide but an overall outline is below.

| Units | Exam Weighting |
|--|----------------|
| Unit 1: Chemistry of Life | 8–11% |
| Unit 2: Cell Structure and Function | 10–13% |
| Unit 3: Cellular Energetics | 12–16% |
| Unit 4: Cell Communication and Cell Cycle | 10–15% |
| Unit 5: Heredity | 8–11% |
| Unit 6: Gene Expression and Regulation | 12–16% |
| Unit 7: Natural Selection | 13–20% |
| Unit 8: Ecology | 10–15% |

Book: <https://openstax.org/details/books/biology-ap-courses>, the text will also be available for download through Teams.

Required items:

- A notebook for all work to be saved in. You will need access to all the work at the end of the year so please don't lose any of it.
- A scientific or graphing calculator

Hybrid Model: Class will be conducted partially in person and partially online. All online material will be delivered through Microsoft Teams. Teams will have a class notebook where all notes and information will be organized by unit. On your days at home, you will be given a list of assignments to complete from the information found in Teams. In person, I will try my hardest to get us capable of doing labs and hands on activities, but it will be at the discretion of how safe the environment can be.

Grading: Your grades will be weighted as follows:

- Exams (30%)
- Quizzes (10%)
- Assignments (30%)
- Labs (15%)
- Final (15%)

Exams – due to online learning, all exams will be short answer only and must be completed during a specific time period when assigned online. Meaning, exams will consist of approximately 4-5 difficult questions where you must show all work to receive full credit. This is consistent with the AP test to ensure you receive full points.

Quizzes – quizzes will be given through AP Classroom, through teams, or in class. All quizzes will be open notes and I encourage you to work together to ensure you understand the material. They will be hard. Instructions on how to sign up for AP classroom will be made available during class.

Assignments – all assignments given in Teams must be completed when they are assigned. You will quickly fall behind if you do not work on the material. Also, quizzes will be randomly assigned and you will not be properly prepared if you have not done the homework. I am setting a **TWO WEEK** deadline for all homework. You will have fourteen days after being assigned the homework to complete it. If you are unable to complete the homework because you are confused, please seek out help before the last day it is due and I may extend the deadline.

Extra credit- the tests and quizzes will be graded based on a slight curve. Extra credit will be given to anyone that scores higher than the curve on quizzes and tests. Extra credit will also be given for completing extra practice exams at the end of each semester. If you show you are able to pass the AP test, your grade will go up.

Cell phones- if possible, please make sure you have your cell phone available during class. It may be hard to see the board during class due to seating assignments. I will stream all work I do on the board so you can see from your desk. Laptops are cool too.

Make up exams- if you miss your exam time or are unhappy with your score, I am happy to make a more difficult exam and replace your grade. Please let me know and we can get your grade fixed.

Classroom Procedures- during class you will have to be extra safe. Please stay seated and 6 feet away from those around you for the entirety of in person class. Bring your own water bottle because the

water fountains are shut down. Only one student may leave the class at a time. Other than all the new scary stuff, please be respectful and work towards passing the AP test.