

Mrs. Christmon  
AP Biology  
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Office Phone number: 363-2662  
Help Session: Thursdays from 4-5 pm

### **Course Description:**

The AP Biology course is an introductory college-level biology course. Students cultivate their understanding of biology through inquiry-based investigations as they explore the following topics: evolution, cellular processes, energy and communication, genetics, information transfer, ecology, and interactions.

### **Course Big Ideas**

#### **Big Idea 1: Evolution**

The process of evolution drives the diversity and unity of life. Evolution is a change in the genetic makeup of a population over time, with natural selection as its major driving mechanism.

#### **Big Idea 2: Energetics**

Biological systems use energy and molecular building blocks to grow, reproduce, and maintain dynamic homeostasis. Cells and organisms must exchange matter with the environment.

#### **Big Idea 3: Information Storage and Transmission**

Living systems store, retrieve, transmit and respond to information essential to life processes. Genetic information provides for continuity of life, and, in most cases, this information is passed from parent to offspring via DNA.

#### **Big Idea 4: System Interaction**

Biological systems interact, and these systems and their interactions exhibit complex properties. All biological systems comprise parts that interact with one another. It provides for greater resiliency and flexibility to tolerate and respond to changes in the environment.

### **Materials required for the each semester:**

- 1- 1.5 inch 3 ring binder**
- 1- 8- Tab dividers**
- 1- Composition Book (Lab Notebook)**
- 1- 70 Sheet Spiral Notebook**
- Pen/pencil**

Students are required to bring science binder to class daily. The binder will be divided into 8 sections for students to keep classroom work, notes and study materials for the course.

### **Classroom Environment:**

Students will participate in cooperative learning groups to enhance their ability to communicate with peers and improve their ability to work with others constructively. Students will participate in class discussion, warm-ups, tests, quizzes, laboratory, laboratory reports, and interpersonal skills that are designed to help students grasp concepts of problem solving skills in science curriculum and group settings. There will be no passes the first 10 minutes or the last 10 minutes of class. Only 1 person will be allowed a pass at a time.

### **Assignments:**

Any of these assignments may occur on a routine basis such as quizzes, tests, discussion posts, laboratory reports, classwork, individual projects and homework.

Discussion posts will occur on scheduled class days using Canvas. Discussion posts will be posted daily and graded at the end of each week. Each response can be worth up to 3 points per day. If discussion posts are answered during the first 10 minutes of class then you will have the opportunity to earn 1 extra credit point per day which is 3 extra credit points per week. At the end of each block class there will be a reflection to complete. The reflection is worth 3 points. Discussion Post total at the end of the week would be a total of 15 points.

Students will be involved in laboratory experiences. A formal lab report will be expected upon completion of the lab.

Tests and Quizzes will be written. **Quizzes are open notes.** The **quizzes** will have a time limit of **15 minutes** and **5 questions.** **You will NOT be able to use your notes for the test.** Make sure you are prepared and have all the necessary notes and handouts to complete the quizzes. A safety test will be given at the beginning of the year. **You may NOT use your notes for the safety test. You must pass with 100% and have a signed safety contract to participate in the lab.**

## **Late Submission Policy**

**Assignments are due on the date specified. Late submissions will be accepted up to one week (7 calendar days) after the original due date.**

**Assignments submitted more than 7 days past the due date will not be accepted. A zero will be recorded in Focus for the assignment.**

**Students are encouraged to communicate any difficulties before the deadline whenever possible.**

Agenda will be posted daily with assignment due dates.

AP Classroom and Online textbook websites will also be available that will be used for classwork and homework. All links will be provided as well as codes to sign up for websites. Different links will be used for coursework as well.

### **Grading Scale**

**A 100-90%**

**B 89-80%**

**C 79-70%**

**D 69-60%**

**F 59-Below**

### **Grading Summary**

|                                                                                |            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Classwork<br/>Binder Check</b>                                              | <b>20%</b> |
| <b>Test</b>                                                                    | <b>20%</b> |
| <b>Discussion Post<br/>(Warm Up)</b>                                           | <b>20%</b> |
| <b>Quizzes</b>                                                                 | <b>20%</b> |
| <b>Lab Report<br/>Pre- Lab Questions<br/>Laboratory<br/>Post Lab Questions</b> | <b>20%</b> |

**Grades will be updated every 2 weeks in Focus.**

### **Discipline in the Classroom:**

The positive school culture plan from the PBIS plan will be followed in the classroom.

### **Attendance:**

Regular attendance is crucial for success. It enables the students to understand assignments and take advantage of the guidance provided by the teacher, speakers, field experiences and peers.

### **Make Up:**

Students will make up assignments after returning from an excused absence. Labs can be made up during help sessions only. It can only be the lab from the previous week. It is the student's responsibility to request any missed assignments or class materials. Major assessments (tests, projects, etc.) must be rescheduled **promptly upon return**.

### **Equipment Maintenance and Room Safety:**

Students will be expected to use safety procedures in class. If any safety procedures are violated during class time students will be removed from the lab. Students will not be allowed to make up a lab. Students who are removed from the lab must retake the safety test and score 100%. Safety will be strictly enforced to ensure that students will not harm themselves or others. All equipment should be used to prevent breakage and/or harm to students and classmates. Once the safety test has been passed with a 100% and the safety contract returned students are to adhere to all rules pertaining to laboratory and classroom safety protocols.

### **Extra Credit and Deadlines**

Extra credit opportunities will be at the teacher's discretion. There are **2 opportunities to earn extra credit points on a weekly basis**. The first is through the discussion post. If the question is answered on the day it is assigned then **1 extra credit point is awarded. Total extra credit points for the week is 3 points**. During the quarter **20-30 extra credit points can be earned**. The **second** way to earn extra credit points is to **NOT have your phone out in class**. You can **earn 3 extra credit points per class** for not having your phone out during class. **Once the phone is seen by the teacher the points cannot be earned for that class period**. You have the opportunity to earn **9 points per week** for not having your phone out in class. **During the quarter you can earn 75-90 extra credit points. The total points earned for the quarter can range from 95-120 points**. There will be **NO EXTRA CREDIT PACKETS**.