2025-2026 AP Biology Syllabus
Ms. Jenkins (Room 103)
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Course overview:
AP Biology 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 materials:
- Two-inch binder, writing utensil, MacBook and charger, calculator, composition lab notebook
- $30 lab fee (please pay through MySchoolBucks by August 31st)
- Textbook: *Biology for AP® Courses* by Julianne Zedalis and John Eggebrecht (Published by OpenStax, 1st edition). Each student will receive a PDF and online copy on Canvas under Modules.

Grading scale:
A=90-100 B=80-89 C=70-79 D=65-69 F=64 and below
Major Grades (tests/labs/projects) = 66% of term average
Minor Grades (classwork/homework/quizzes) = 33% of term average
*Note: This class receives a 1.1 gradebook weight.

Class rules and expectations:

Rule #1: **Be respectful**. Treat others in the classroom with courtesy and empathy.
Rule #2: **Be responsible**. Have materials ready at the beginning of class. Follow all safety procedures in the lab. Be proactive if you are missing assignments so that you don't fall behind. Communicate with me if you need additional help.
Rule #3: **Work hard**. Participation and attendance matter! Come to class with a positive attitude and ready to learn.

Cell phones are NOT to be used any time during the class period. All phones must be silenced and stored away in their assigned pocket by the tardy bell. **Plagiarism, cheating, and other unprofessional conduct will not be tolerated.**

Make-up work:
You are responsible for checking Canvas to find out what you missed and for making up all missed work after an absence in a timely manner. **If you are absent for a quiz or test, please see me to schedule a time to make it up.** You will be allowed up to the second to last class day before a test to make up a quiz. If you miss a test, you will have exactly ONE week past that date to make up the test. Failure to make these up within the time limit will result in a ZERO.

Earning College/University Credit:
The AP Exam is scheduled for May 4th, 2026, at 8 a.m. This test is the driving force for the curriculum taught throughout the year. ***Upon passing the AP Exam, students will receive credit for a two-semester college introductory biology course for biology majors and other science majors, including pre-professional biomedical and pharmacy students***. For this reason, AP Biology is a rigorous, but manageable, course. Please see the AP Credit Policy Search link on Canvas to see the minimum score required for credit at the university you are considering attending.

Section I: Multiple Choice 60 Questions | 1 hour 30 Minutes | 50% of Exam Score
Section II: Free Response 6 Questions | 1 hour 30 Minutes | 50% of Exam Score

- There are 2 long questions and 4 short questions. Long questions are worth 9 points each; short questions are worth 4 points each.
- The long questions ask students to:
    - Interpret and evaluate experimental results
    - Interpret and evaluate experimental results with graphing
- The short-answer questions assess students' understanding of the following:
    - Scientific investigation
    - Conceptual analysis
    - Analysis of a model or visual representation
    - Data analysis

Extra Help:
Any student seeking additional help may attend tutorial, offered on Friday mornings from 7:45-8:15 a.m. or by appointment. Please email me in advance to let me know that you will be attending. Optional test reviews are held from 7:45-8:15 a.m. on test days.

Navigating Canvas:
A calendar of past and current daily topics/activities will be posted to the Canvas homepage. **Major due dates, quiz dates, and the test date are posted at the beginning of each unit.** Homework is also posted to this calendar daily. If you are absent, you must check the calendar to see what you need to make up. **Under Modules, you will find additional study resources for each unit and topic.**

Labs and Activities:
Students will spend a minimum of 25% of instructional time engaged in hands-on, inquiry-based laboratory investigations that provide them the opportunity to apply the science practices. Students will document their laboratory experiences in a lab notebook and write at least one formal lab report per semester.

Homework/Quizzes:
Homework is posted to Canvas each day on the home page calendar. Often, you will be completing practice based on the notes from class. You will periodically have quizzes throughout the unit. Expect to have a quiz every 2-4 topics covered. Unit packets and review questions will be turned in the day of the test.

Course topics:

Unit Number and Title	% of Exam	Big Ideas
Unit 1: Chemistry of Life	8-11%	ENE, IST, SYI
Unit 2: Cells	10-13%	EVO, ENE, SYI
Unit 3: Cellular Energetics	12-16%	ENE
Unit 4: Cell Communication and Cell Cycle	10-15%	ENE, IST
Unit 5: Heredity	8-11%	EVO, IST, SYI
Unit 6: Gene Expression and Regulation	12-16%	IST
Unit 7: Natural Selection	13-20%	EVO, SYI
Unit 8: Ecology	10-15%	EVO, ENE, IST, SYI

Evolution (EVO); Energetics (ENE); Information Storage and Transmission (IST); and System Interactions (SYI)

Grading

	Minor	Major
1x	Bellringers, AP Classroom progress checks, review questions	Projects, lab notebook checks, formal lab reports
2x	Quizzes, workbooks	Tests