YOUNG WOMEN'S Leadership Academy

PAP Biology 26-27 Instructional Plan

Created on 8/7/2026

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WHAT IS PRE-AP?

Pre-AP features grade-level instruction intended to give all students the opportunity for growth. It offers a focused framework, instructional support, model lessons, and classroom assessments while focusing on skills that students will need to succeed in AP courses, college, and careers.

Shared principles:

- Close Observation and Analysis: Students carefully observe a data set, text, image, or problem--capturing relevant details before attempting to explain, analyze, or evaluate.
- Evidence-Based Writing: Students learn to craft precise sentences before progressing to longer forms of writing—applying these skills as they craft claims, develop arguments, and provide explanations.
- Higher-Order Questioning: Students engage with questions that are elevated beyond simple recall as they make predictions, synthesize, evaluate, and compare--learning that deep questions lead to deeper understanding.
- Academic Conversation: Students become active participants in their own learning through frequent opportunities to compare, critique, debate, and build upon others' ideas--recognizing that all voices, including their own, deserve to be heard.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Pre-Advanced Placement Biology is a rigorous course in which the student is expected to conduct a variety of activities/assignments. It requires being self-directed and self-motivated as well as making frequent use of online resources, apps, experts, and other sources of information.

The focus for PreAP biology is depth and complexity rather than a faster pace. This emphasis provides a better opportunity for enhancing much needed processing and critical thinking skills. The student will be responsible for note-taking outside of class. Skills obtained within this class will further prepare students for AP classes and to take and master the EOC Biology test.

COURSE ACTIVITIES (What we will be doing)

There are four big ideas addressed across all units:

- The process of evolution drives the diversity and unity of life.
- Growth and reproduction in biological systems are dependent upon the cycling of matter and the transformation of energy.

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- Biological systems, occurring at various scales, respond and adapt to stimuli in order to maintain dynamic homeostasis.
- Genetic mechanisms are essential to maintaining biological systems.

Each unit can contain:

- **Model lessons:** Student and teacher resources that demonstrate how to translate the course framework, shared principles, and areas of focus into daily learning.
- **In-lesson formative assessments:** Short, open-ended problems that highlight the targeted content and skills for each lesson.
- **1-2 learning checkpoints:** These multiple-choice and technology-enhanced questions are modeled closely after the types of questions students encounter on AP Exams and or Texas Biology EOC. Learning checkpoints require students to examine graphs, data, and short texts—often in authentic contexts—to respond to questions that measure students' understanding of the unit's concepts and skills.
- **Performance task:** A sustained problem-solving task that asks students to synthesize the unit's skills and concepts while answering questions about a novel context.
- **Labs:** Encourage hands-on interaction with biological concepts and sharpen critical thinking.

GRADES - Click here for → YWLA Grading Policy

Major (Test, Projects, Writing)	60%
Minor (Notes, Daily Work)	40%

Classroom Resources (examples below)

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- Teacher and Student Created Materials
- PreAP Classroom
- SAVVAS Biology
- Google Classroom
- Various Youtube Videos
- Khan Academy

Exam Date (TBA)

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND TOPICS

Unit 1: BOY, Lab Safety, Sci. Method
Unit 3: Biomolecules
Unit 4: Cell Structure/Viruses (Prokaryotic vs Eukaryotic Cells)
Unit 14: Cellular Transport
Unit 5: Photosynthesis & Cell Respiration
Unit 06: DNA Structure/Replication, Cell Cycle & Cancer
Unit 07: Meiosis, Chromosomal Mutations, Karyotypes
Unit 08: Protein Synthesis, Mutations, Environmental Factors
Unit 09: Mendelian Genetics: Monohybrid, Dihybrid Crosses
Unit 10: Non-Mendelian Genetics & Pedigrees
Unit 11: Evolution
Unit 12: Plant Systems
Unit 13: Animal Systems
Unit 02: Ecosystems
STAAR Review
Animal Dissection/Current Developments in Biology

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. We are excited to work together to make this a successful year of learning!