

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN HIGH SCHOOL
AP BIOLOGY® 4137
SYLLABUS 2016-2017

Ms. Giannou – Moore
Room 150
512-841-5852

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www.apbiologyatahs.weebly.com

Course Goals:

- The two main goals of AP Biology are to help students develop a conceptual framework for modern biology and an appreciation of science as a process.
- AP Biology is designed to be the equivalent of a two-semester college introductory biology course usually taken by biology majors during their first year, and as such will include topics regularly covered in a college biology course for majors.
- Students enrolled in this course should have the following prerequisites: one year of introductory Biology and one year of introductory Chemistry.
- Essential to this conceptual understanding are a grasp of science as a process rather than as an accumulation of facts; personal experience in scientific inquiry; recognition of unifying themes that integrate the major topics of biology; and application of biological knowledge and critical thinking to environmental and social concerns.

Textbook:

- This course is designed around the use of the following textbooks and laboratory manuals. Students will be issued an access code to online text and resources, and will have access to a paper copy of the textbook in the classroom.
- Required Text: Reece, Jane B. Campbell Biology, AP Edition. Boston, MA.: Pearson Education/Benjamin Cummings, 2011. Print.

Course Supplies: All supplies are required

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ONE subject 11"x8 ½" plastic cover spiral notebook 100 sheets (must be able to fit a standard size paper without being modified). You may need two notebooks.• pens and pencils• colored pencils	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Glue sticks or Glue Bottle, Scotch tape• Scissors• Ruler• 4-function calculator (not scientific or graphing – you must have this type of calculator)
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Lab Component

- Students will work in groups of 2 – 4 to complete the labs for each unit, and will spend at least 25% of their instructional time in the laboratory.
- Laboratory work will encourage the development of important skills such as detailed observation, accurate recording, experimental design, manual manipulation, data interpretation, statistical analysis, and operation of technical equipment.
- Laboratory assignments will offer the opportunity for students to learn about problem solving, the scientific method, the techniques of research, and the use of scientific literature.
- Laboratory investigations will encourage higher-order thinking, which may include evaluating and monitoring progress through an investigation, generating ideas, and formulating hypotheses.
- All required AP Biology labs will be completed during this course, and are hands on and student lead.
- Students will be required to write a formal laboratory report for most of the labs following the formal laboratory report guidelines provided.
- Formal lab reports will be weighted on the equivalent of the unit exams.

Course Policies

- Personal responsibility is the rule in the classroom. As such, students need to be punctual, prepared, productive, and polite in class to maximize their learning experience.
- Students are encouraged to bring their own personal technology devices. However, the classroom will have 30 chromebooks available for use.
- Cell phones will be placed into the cell phone caddy at the beginning of each class, and can be retrieved five minutes before the end of class.

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- If a student is absent for an exam, the student is expected to communicate with the teacher before the exam is administered either through an email, the remind app, or a phone call.
- If the student does not communicate, he/she will be expected to take the exam the first day back to class, and will NOT be eligible for test corrections.
- If a student is absent for an exam for school-related reasons, the student must make arrangements to take the exam BEFORE the date of the exam or the above rules will apply to the student.

Grading

- I will follow the department grading policy:
60% Major grades (exams, formal lab reports)
40% Minor grades (quick labs, homework, quizzes, class work, and interactive notebook)
- Refer to “Grading the Interactive Notebook” document for specific information on how the INB is graded.
- Rating of Exams:
All exams will be written and graded in the style of the AP Biology Exam, which includes a several long free response questions, several short free response questions, and multiple choice questions that also include griddable answers. According to this grading, the following weighted scale is used to match the rating scale of the AP Biology Exam:
A = 5 90%-100%
B = 4 80% - 89%
C = 3 70% - 79%
D = 2 60%-69%
F = 1 below 60%
- Semester grades are determined by averaging each six weeks grade (25% per six weeks) with the semester final exam grade (25%)
- AHS’s Final Exam Waiver Policy will be followed.

Late Work Policy

- All assignments are due at the beginning of class and the following procedures will be followed when a student turns in an assignment late:
- Student may submit assignments up to 4 calendar school days after original due date with a 10 point penalty per day late.
- After 4 days a student may earn up to a 50 for completion of assignment or alternative assignment comparable to original assignment.
- ALL late work must be turned in no later than 1 week prior to the last day of the grading period.

Test Corrections

- Students will only be eligible for test corrections if they have completed the review prior to taking the unit exam.
- Any student can improve test scores by attending tutorials and thoroughly completing test corrections according to my specifications.
- Student will receive a curved score using the following formula: $[(\sqrt{\text{original score}})*10]$.
- Test corrections must be completed before the next unit exam.

Tutorials

- If a student is struggling with the content, I encourage him/her to come in for tutorials.
- Tutoring Hours: Due to the fact that my schedule varies, I keep a detailed calendar on my whiteboard in the classroom showing my availability. Students may sign up on my calendar during open slots if tutoring is needed.

Tardy & Truancy Policy

- The Austin High Tardy and Truancy Policy will be implemented.

Student Signature _____

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Academic Dishonesty Policy: Austin High School Science Department

According to the Austin High Student/Parent Handbook, Academic dishonesty includes, but is not exclusive to: using notes or study aids without permission during a quiz or test, falsifying someone else's work as one's own, including plagiarism, looking at another person's quiz or test without the teacher's explicit permission. Consequences for academic dishonesty include: zero for the assignment without an opportunity for making-up the assignment, a call home, the mistrust of your instructor, the refusal of your instructor to write a letter of recommendation for you. Austin High personnel may assign additional consequences if the dishonesty persists.

Teachers are trying to evaluate your knowledge of the subject area. You may want to make the following adaptations so that your work presented for this class represents only your honest effort. Never copy work from a friend whether this is for homework or on an exam. Be careful about accepting help from tutors, friends or parents - we want your work. Be sure to try to answer the question or solve the problem before asking for help. Do not ask peers for exam information. Do not give peers exam information.

AISD Science Laboratory Safety Contract

- I will act responsibly at all times in the laboratory.
- I will follow all instructions about laboratory procedures given by the teacher.
- I will keep my area clean in the laboratory.
- I will wear my safety goggles at all times in the laboratory and protective clothing when necessary.
- I know where the fire extinguisher is located in the laboratory and have been trained to use it.
- I will notify the teacher of any emergency.
- I know whom to contact for help in an emergency.
- I will tie back long hair, remove jewelry, and wear shoes with closed ends (toes and heels) while in the laboratory.
- I will never work in the laboratory alone.
- I will never eat or drink in the laboratory unless instructed to do so by the teacher.
- I will only handle living organisms or preserved specimens when authorized by the teacher.
- I will not enter or work in the storage room unless supervised by a teacher.
- I understand that there are options available to me concerning animal dissection.
- I understand that students will be removed from the science activity area by the teacher if:
 1. Their personal appearance or dress is such that they can cause injury to themselves or other students.
 2. They are behaving in such a manner that they cause injury to themselves or other students.
 3. They are not following the prescribed safety rules for the science activity area or the particular science activity being conducted.
 4. They are going beyond the limits of the science activity into areas that may lead to an unsafe situation.
 5. They have not completed the pre-experiment activities that will allow them to work safely in the laboratory.

Student Signature _____

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_____ Period

PLEASE PRINT INFORMATION NEATLY

Contact lenses are controversial in the science laboratory. Some experts feel that they are an added risk if there is a chemical splashed in the eye. All students must wear safety goggles to minimize the risk of accidents. As a parent, the decision is yours and your eye care specialist's.

My child **does / does not** (circle one) wear contact lenses.

I also understand that there are options available to my child concerning animal dissection.

My child **may / may not** (circle one) participate in animal dissection.

I, _____ (**print parent's name**), have read this syllabus. I have discussed the contents with my child and feel that my child understands the guidelines and the consequences for violating the guidelines. I would like to inform the school that my child has the following physical or medical situation that could affect his/her learning in a science class (ex: specific allergies, etc.).

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

I, _____ (**print student's name**), have read each of the statements in the course syllabus including the Academic Dishonesty Policy and AISD Science Laboratory Safety Contract and understand the guidelines and the consequences for violating the guidelines. I agree to abide by all classroom rules, school policies, safety regulations, and any additional written or verbal instructions provided by the school district and my teacher.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

Parent Home Phone _____

Parent Cell Phone _____

Parent Work Phone _____

Parent Email Address _____

Please only provide contact information if you can be reached at that number/address.