

AP BIOLOGY

Instructor: Mr. Smitka

Room: A107 - Roseville High School

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Class Website: <http://rhs-apbio.weebly.com>

AP Biology is an introductory college-level course designed to challenge students to extend their knowledge of biological concepts beyond high school level and impart a sense of excitement about life science. All aspects of the course focus on science as a process and a way of knowing. Students will be engaged in an inquiry-based instruction requiring them to question, analyze, think critically and provide evidence-based explanations. The course is structured around four big ideas:

- **Big idea 1:** The process of evolution drives the diversity and unity of life.
- **Big idea 2:** Biological systems utilize free energy and molecular building blocks to grow, to reproduce and to maintain dynamic homeostasis.
- **Big idea 3:** Living systems store, retrieve, transmit and respond to information essential to life processes.
- **Big idea 4:** Biological systems interact, and these systems and their interactions possess complex properties.

This course is not intended to be limited to the gifted and talented, but is intended for the type of student who shows interest, aptitude, maturity, and a high degree of motivation to work hard toward mastering serious academic material. Students will be expected to perform at a college level, but will be given extra support, encouragement, and personal attention that a high school setting can better afford them.

AP Exam College Credit

- Colleges vary in what score they will accept for credit. Generally a student needs to score at least a 4 for credit, but some schools will accept a 3. Check with the schools you are applying to for details.

The AP Exam

- Test Date: Monday, May 12 @ 8:00 a.m. All students are encouraged to take the AP exam. More info will be provided later.

Materials

- Text: Biology: The Unity and Diversity of Life, 11th Edition (School supplied)
- Lab Notebook: Graph/grid type for lab investigations
- Binder: 2" minimum with college-ruled paper for draft notes *and* dividers for unit divisions
- Spiral Notebook: approx. 200 pages, college-ruled with pages that do not easily tear out
- Internet Access: We use several websites to support coursework.
 - REMEMBER YOUR SCHOOL ISSUED COMPUTER LOG-ON & PASSWORD.
 - Wi-Fi Enabled Device is highly recommended for data taking during labs
- AP Biology study books are highly recommended. Make sure you get one that is for the new curriculum. Anything published early than 2012 will not be helpful in preparation for the new test, which was given for the first time in 2013.

Edmodo

- We will attempt to use Edmodo as a forum for this class to communicate, collaborate and help each other succeed.
- Go to <http://www.edmodo.com> and use the group code "2chpwh" to join the RHS AP Biology Edmodo group.

RHS Classroom Policies

- Come to class prepared - in order to facilitate class discussions and reduce lecture time in favor of labs and knowledge enhancing activities, you must complete all required assignments. AP assignments are not 'busy work'; they are designed to help you learn difficult material.
- Come to class! The work we will be doing during class cannot be replicated at home, labs in particular. You have committed to an advanced class and that requires your presence in the classroom. Missed labs cannot be made up and will receive a score of zero.
- Study at home – the convention for college courses is 3 hours of independent study for each hour of class time. In order to have productive class discussions, you must review the material at home.
- No whining! This is a college level course. It will be challenging. It will require a significant amount of time outside of class. If you don't like biology, this is not the class for you!
- Yes, you have to write in complete sentences. Yes, you have to show your work. Yes, you have to write out procedures, data tables, and label graphs. Yes, you are expected to show a higher level of understanding on ALL of your assignments. No, you may not write in 'text-talk'.
- Use all of the school skills you have acquired over the last 10-11 grades before this. Raise your hand, be prepared, study, etc.

Attendance

- The attendance policy of Roseville High School will be followed at all times.
- If for any reason your entire body is not inside the classroom when the bell rings, you will be marked tardy.
- If a student is absent from class, it is the student's responsibility, not the teacher's, to find out what work was missed. The student must inquire about missed work from the teacher.

Participation

- Everyone is expected to participate in class. This includes answering/attempting to answer questions, participating in labs or demos, or anything else that Mr. Smitka dreams up for you to participate in. If any student has a problem with this policy, s/he should come see me as soon as possible to discuss the situation.

Class Dismissal

- Mr. Smitka, not the clock, will dismiss class. The class will be dismissed only if all cleaning requirements are complete, I have stopped speaking, and all students are in their seats. No one will leave unless all students are in a seat and quiet.

Tests & Quizzes

- Tests will be given per unit completed. Tests will be formatted to the AP test so students will understand how the test will be structured. The format for the AP Exam is multiple choice, short answer and essay. Unit test material will also comprise previous material.
- Quizzes will be announced and unannounced. Many will cover the reading or video lectures required for homework. This is to check understanding and make sure students are keeping up with the material.

Homework

- Homework will be given often to help reinforce all that you have learned in class. All homework assigned will be due at the beginning of the class on the given due date. Homework will either be checked as a class or turned into Mr. Smitka on the due date.

Unexcused Late Work

- Homework is assigned at the time that is assigned for a reason. It will be very difficult if not impossible to keep up with this class if you do not complete homework on time. Because of this, **NO LATE WORK IS ACCEPTED IN THIS CLASS**. If you cannot print something out, emailing the teacher is the last resort BEFORE the due date and time. You are still responsible for communicating with the teacher and delivering a printed copy ASAP.

Make-up Work

- Excused absences will be given 3-days for every day absent, as stated by RHS policy. Stay on top of missed work from the class website. If you are involved in extracurricular activities where you may miss class, you are expected to keep up by going to the class website and/or getting additional help.

Labs

- AP Biology is structured around inquiry in the lab and the use of the seven science practices throughout the course. Students are given the opportunity to engage in student-directed laboratory investigations throughout the course. Students will conduct a minimum of eight inquiry-based investigations (two per big idea throughout the course). Additional labs will be conducted to deepen students' conceptual understanding and to reinforce the application of science practices within a hands-on, discovery based environment. Habits of mind that employ inquiry and science practice will also be expected with assigned activities to be completed outside of class.
- Science Practices
 1. The student can use representations and models to communicate scientific phenomena and solve scientific problems.
 2. The student can use mathematics appropriately.
 3. The student can engage in scientific questioning to extend thinking or to guide investigations within the context of the AP course.
 4. The student can plan and implement data collection strategies appropriate to a particular scientific question.
 5. The student can perform data analysis and evaluation of evidence.
 6. The student can work with scientific explanations and theories.
 7. The student is able to connect and relate knowledge across various scales, concepts and representations in and across domains

Lab Safety

- For the safety of all, students who do not follow posted and stated lab policies may expect to be removed from lab and will receive NO CREDIT for that lab.

Grading

- All grades will be based on the 13-point system set forth by Roseville Community Schools.
- A+ 13 A 12 A- 11 B+ 10 B 9 B- 8 C+ 7 C 6 C- 5 D+ 4 D 3 D- 2 F 0

Grade Weight

- **Summative Assignments = 70%** (Tests, Quizzes, Projects, AP Labs, Research Project) **Formative Assignments = 30%** (Homework, Daily Assignments, Participation, Class Demos, Small Labs)

Cheating

- Copying another student's homework, lab, extra credit, or test will result in all people involved receiving a zero on that assignment, as well as having their parents notified. Cheating includes cutting and pasting off of the internet and not properly referencing it in an assignment. Students will receive an office referral on their second and subsequent offenses

Consequences

- Consequences are used for any disruptive or disrespectful behavior in class. You are old enough to know how to act.
 - **1st offense – Warning**
 - **2nd offense – Responsibility Room Visit or Detention**
 - **3rd offense – Responsibility Room Visit or Assistant Principal Referral**
 - Note: I reserve the right to skip consequences for major offences or repeat offenders, also an immediate referral to the office may be issued if the issue becomes a problem that is disrupting the entire class
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Student/Parent Agreement

I have read this document and understand the policies and procedures of Mr. Smitka's class and knowing this, I will try my best to follow all class rules and procedures. I am also aware that it is my right to request a meeting at any time during the year to discuss the enforcement of these rules and policies or any other issues related to class.

Student Name _____

Science Hour _____

Student Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Email Address

