

AP Biology Syllabus - Mr. Miller

Course Description

This AP Biology course is designed to be the equivalent of a two-semester college introductory biology course. The units will cover broad topics of biology with an emphasis on concepts rather than facts.

The 4 big ideas of our class will be:

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

The course will be rigorous and the expectations will be higher than any other biology class. Not all students will truly fall in love with the study of biology but each student should focus on being curious and learning to love learning. Those traits will help any student be successful in this class.

Course Information

GOALS: The goal of this class is to learn biology and be prepared to take the AP Biology test as well as have fun while learning and doing science. Students will develop a solid base of biology knowledge which will allow them study and be successful in biology later in college if they so desire.

GRADING: Students will be graded on two categories of work: formative work and summative work.

- Formative Work : 50% of the grade
 - Includes: Notes, assignments, bell-ringers, quizzes, pre-tests, lab reports and other types of assignments designed to teach or reinforce learned concepts.
- Summative Work: 50% of the grade
 - Includes: Tests, projects, lab final summaries and other work designed to measure final proficiency.

GRADING SCALE: Midterm and trimester grades will be issued based on the following scale. Earned points will be added together, then divided by the total points possible to determine a percentage.

A's	100-93%	A	B's	89.9-87%	B+	C's	79.9-77%	C+	D's	69.9-67%	D+	F	59.9% or less
	92.9-90%	A-		86.9-83%	B		76.9-73%	C		66.9-63%	D		
				82.9-80%	B-		72.9-70%	C-		62.9-60%	D-		

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS: You are old enough to know what proper behavior for a classroom is. Please act accordingly. Things to do:

- Be respectful to each of your peers. Be respectful of the teacher and listen at all times
- Come to class prepared to learn and willing to work
- Be responsible by turning in work on time, studying and making up missed assignments
- Clean up your lab station and keep your seating area clean
- Follow BEHS school policies

Please, do not:

- Consume food or drinks in class (water is ok).
- Intentionally harm or misuse any of the lab equipment/class materials/animals.
- Use distracting items in class: cell phones, ipods, ipads/kindles, books, other homework etc.

STUDENT CITIZENSHIP: All students will receive a citizenship grade at midterm and the end of the trimester. Student citizenship will be based on the student's behavior and the number of "strikes" a student receives. All students begin their citizenship with an S. Common ways that students can receive strikes:

- Tiring in work after the due date
- Using electronics in class – phone or music
- Being off-task or horsing around
- Defiant behavior
- Rude or inappropriate behavior to others

Citizenship grade scale:

H: Excellent participation and 4 strikes or fewer.

S: 4 strikes or fewer

N: 6 strikes

U: More than 8 strikes

EQUIPMENT: Each student will receive a lab book that will be dedicated to AP Biology. This lab book will be required to be turned in occasionally. These notebooks will be used to assemble unit portfolios which will be helpful as a study resource for the AP Test. A folder with pockets will also be very helpful to hold loose papers that are handed out.

GROUP WORK: Working in groups is a privilege and a skill that must be practiced. Students will be assigned to work in partners and in groups for many labs and assignments. Each student is expected to communicate and contribute to their group.

LATE WORK AND DEADLINES: All work will have an initial due date. There will be a late work deadline just before each midterm and just before the end of each trimester. Assignments from the first half will be accepted up until the midterm late work deadline and from the second half up until the final midterm deadline.

CLASS WEBSITE: Student will use Canvas (canvas.instructure.com) for daily materials and concept quizzes. Additional materials will also be posted at www.behsscience.com. All of the class notes and other helpful links will be posted online. Check it out and use it to help you review.

STUDENTS with ACCOMODATIONS: Students, please come see me before or after school so we can discuss how I can help you succeed and meet your accommodations.

How can I be successful in this class? Tips and expectations for success

Since this is essentially a college level class, expectations will be similar to what is experienced in a higher education setting. Here are some helpful tips to help you get the most out of this class.

1. Students should attend class daily and be on time. Missing one day can set you back. Make sure you are here! Please pre-arrange your absences if you know you will be gone.
2. If you do miss class, **it is your responsibility** to find out what was done in class that day. To know what you missed, check the calendar on the class website. All work that is missed during an absence is expected to be completed within the same amount of time as was missed. EX: If you miss 4 days, your work is due 4 days after you return from absence. Make it up ASAP!
3. Use the class website. All the class notes and other helpful links will be posted online. Use the online materials to review!
4. Classroom work will be discussions, labs (25% of class time) and other helpful activities. Students will be expected to participate in class by answering questions, asking questions and commenting. Don't be afraid to be wrong or contribute an observation. You will learn the most

by being an active participant in class. Many of our activities will help you develop useful academic skills like outlining techniques, reading/note taking strategies, calculations and timed writing. These skills will be helpful for this class and other classes in your future.

5. Much of the work for this class will be performed outside of class time. Your personal goal should be to learn as much as you can by reading the assignments and doing a thorough job with the follow-up summaries/questions. Students should anticipate having assignments to work on at home on multiple nights each week. Many of the assignments will involve demonstrating and improving communication skills: writing and presenting in front of the class.
6. Students will be expected to work in groups on projects and labs. Please be a good partner by working hard and communicating with your group.
7. Come in before/after school or in Bee Time to get help when you feel like you are struggling! Your teacher is a pretty cool dude and is your greatest resource!

AP Test Information

This year the AP Biology test is on Monday May 8, 2017. The cost is \$93.00. Fee reductions are available for students who qualify for free or reduced lunch. Each student should be prepared to take the AP biology exam, although the test is optional. We will be doing **large amounts** of review before that day to help you be successful, including timed practice tests, review packets etc. More info to come...

Resources and Contact Information

If all this seems overwhelming it's because it's an AP class! Don't worry though, it will become clear and it will get easier as you go along. I am fully committed to helping you succeed so please get help when you need it. If you are committed to consistently working hard and doing your best, you will be able to succeed in this class and on the AP test! Hard work pays off!

Well, now that all of that is out of the way, I hope you are excited for the upcoming best year of your life! This class will be as good as you make it, so make it great and be excited to learn like you never have before! **-Mr. Miller**

Email: andrew.miller@besd.net Phone: School-435-734-4840 ext 2412

Class Website: www.behsscience.com

----- CUT -----
We have received a copy of the syllabus and safety document for Mr. Miller's AP Biology class. We understand that it is our responsibility to meet the expectations of this course as well as abide by all principles of safety and proper conduct.

I have read the class safety code of conduct found on the class website.

(Print student name)

(Student signature)

(Date)

(Parent signature)

(Parent preferred contact: Phone or email address)

(Date)