

**AP BIOLOGY – Course Description and Expectations**  
**Lynbrook High School 2018-2019**  
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Welcome to AP Biology! I am excited that you have expressed an interest in biology – a discipline that is fascinating, constantly changing, and applicable to our everyday lives. As we work together this year, our course goals will be to:

- Develop an understanding and appreciation of the interconnections that define the field of Biology;
- Expand and apply analytical skills to assess the rapidly changing science of biology especially as it relates to environmental and social concerns;
- Gain laboratory skills and an appreciation of science as a dynamic process through designing, implementing, interpreting, and analyzing advanced labs;
- Communicate effectively through speech, writing, graphics, and presentations;
- Participate actively and work cooperatively with one another in a positive classroom community;
- Take the Advanced Placement Biology exam on Monday May 13, 2019.

The AP Biology course is designed to be the equivalent of a year-long college introductory biology course. Enrolling in AP Biology means that you have undertaken a personal responsibility to work hard and manage your time to keep up with a rigorous curriculum. In order to maintain a fun, intellectually stimulating, and balanced year, carefully examine your academic load and outside activities, and make sure that you are willing and prepared to commit AT LEAST one hour per night (more on weekends) to AP Biology. Your success in (and enjoyment of) this class will directly reflect the amount of effective effort you invest.

### STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

At all times, to contribute positively to the learning environment:

- Respect, listen to, and support each other. Science is best when done in collaboration with others.
- Arrive to class on time, prepared to participate, learn, and succeed
- Exhibit responsible behavior and attention to lab safety.
- Abide by the FUHSD Academic Honesty Policy. A copy of the policy is available on the LHS website. Refer to the FUHSD Academic Honesty Policy for various forms of academic dishonesty that are unacceptable and for the consequences of those actions.

### PREREQUISITES

The following are **highly recommended**: Chemistry/Chem Honors and Biology with minimum grades of B.

### COURSE MATERIALS

- **Textbook** (to be used at home): Urry, Lisa A. *Campbell Biology In Focus*. Boston: Pearson, 2014.
- **Recommended daily Supplies**: Pens, pencils, highlighters or colored pens, metric ruler, calculator, glue stick, lined paper, and a few sheet of graph paper.
- **Web resources**: Our textbook is supplemented by ample online resources including summaries, animations, practice tests, textbook images, lab review, an online textbook, web links, and more.

### ASSIGNMENT POLICY

- All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day of the deadline.
- Assignments turned in up to one class day late will earn a maximum of 50% credit.
- In the event that a day is missed, students are expected to check the class website and contact a classmate for assignments and class notes. After a student returns from an absence, they have the same number of class meetings as they missed to turn in assignments for full credit.

- If you know you will be absent ahead of time (i.e. for sports, field trip, club day, college visits, etc.), find out IN ADVANCE what you will miss in class by checking with the teacher and asking for any handouts or due dates
- If absent on the day of an exam a make-up exam will be available one to two weeks before the end of the grading period. It is the student's responsibility to contact the teacher to schedule the make-up exam.
- If you are absent on the day of a lab or activity, see the teacher the day you return for the assignment or alternative.
- Students will NOT have the opportunity to make up work or exams for unexcused absences.
- Most assignments that are collected for grading should be handwritten using blue or black ink.
- If you have a question about how an assignment was graded make an appointment with the teacher within two weeks of the grade being posted to the class website. Grade inquiries will not be granted after this time.
- Assignments must always be kept in your possession. Copied assignments are academic honesty violations for all participants involved. The acceptable way to help or receive help from another student on an assignment (including homework and labs) should involve a discussion where no writing takes place followed by time for all participants to work independently on the assignment.
- When scantron (bubble sheet) forms are used for the multiple choice section of a test, scores will not be altered when sloppy marks/erasures lead to an inaccurate machine generated score.

## ATTENDANCE

- Regular attendance and participation in class are essential for successful mastery of the sequential concepts that are inherent in a science course. One day builds on the next. Please make every attempt to schedule appointments at times that do not conflict with class.

## PARTICIPATION

Each grading period students start with 9/10 points in participation. Constructive participation will raise this score. Any violation of class expectations (unauthorized use of personal electronic devices, bathroom visits beyond one per semester, not following directions, etc.) will result in a reduction of participation points. Each tardy will result in the loss of 2 points. Unexcused absences will result in a loss of 5 points.

## GRADING POLICY

Course grades are determined by the total number of points earned divided by the total number of possible points in each of the following weighted categories. Grades are rounded to the nearest tenths place, 89.818% becomes 89.8% = a letter grade of B.

Assignments subject to academic honesty violations receive a 0% F for all participants involved.

<u>Grading Categories</u>	
Tests and Quizzes	45%
Homework	15%
Class Work (Lab Work/Activities/Participation)	20%
Final Exam	20%
Cumulative Grade	100%

<u>Grading Scale</u>	
90-100%	A
80-89.9%	B
70-79.9%	C
60-69.9%	D
59-0%	F

## WEBSITE: [www.msdelasantina.com](http://www.msdelasantina.com)

You are expected to use our class website to monitor your progress in our class. On our website you will also find the class objectives for the day, the homework assignment, and any relevant lab data or web links. I will do my best to update our website including your grade every day after school. ID: lastname, PW: unique for each student.

**EXTENDED CLASS TIME**

Expect to spend time beyond our class during tutorial, lunch, 7<sup>th</sup> period, or after school working on perfecting your understanding of our challenging content material. Our room will often be used as a Biology study room. I want you to feel comfortable working in our classroom with your peers and I on any questions you may have to help you master AP Biology.

**Again, welcome to AP Biology. AP courses are very challenging. I will do my best to define the challenges of AP Biology so that you may rise and meet these challenges.**

Sincerely,

*Ms. Della Santina*