

AP Biology Syllabus 2007

Philosophy

I absolutely love teaching AP Biology. AP Biology is both a hard and a fun course. How could the science of life not be fun! This is a university level course that meets or exceeds the standards of a year-one university level Biology course. Students are held to high expectations and mature responsibilities just like a university freshman taking Introductory Biology. I use an activity-based, hands-on approach to learning throughout the course that encourages students to make better informed decisions about the environment and their health. I also view this course as a team effort. While each person needs to complete and hand in their own work, study groups and cooperative effort are strongly encouraged. You never learn something as well as when you have to explain it to someone else. In promoting self-learning among my students in tandem with the team effort approach the realization that their decisions can and will affect others outside the walls of our school.

Course Overview

I meet with my students five times a week. Regular class periods are 75 minutes long. Labs meet or exceed the 25% time commitment as stressed by the College Board. Labs take place 1-2 times per week during the school year. This allows us to do the 12 labs in the *AP Lab Manual* along with many other labs to support the curriculum.

The textbook for the course is Campbell and Reece's Biology 7th Edition. Labs come from the *AP Biology Lab Manual for Students*, are teacher-generated or come from other sources. Students also have access to their own account via the *Campbell & Reece Gateway*. This online resource (www.biology.com) contains a plethora of videos, powerpoints, tutorials, tests, quizzes, labs, and activities that compliment the text to reinforce comprehension of concepts for AP Biology.

Sequencing of the Course

The course is divided into five (5) key units. With each unit a variety of teaching strategies and techniques are used to engage my students independently and in group settings.

Eight major themes are incorporated into each unit from the *AP Biology Course Description*. These themes include: