

Advanced Placement Biology
Mrs. Abraham

Description of Course

This course is designed to be the equivalent of a two-semester college introductory biology course. It differs significantly from the usual high school biology course with respect to the kind of textbook used, the range and depth of topics covered, the type of lab work done by students, and the time and effort required of students. This class aims to provide students with the conceptual framework, factual knowledge, and analytical skills necessary to deal critically with the rapidly changing science of biology.

I teach a “flipped” classroom. **Students are responsible for watching video lectures and reading the textbook at home in preparation for class the next day.** During class, students will complete a variety of activities that reinforce the topics covered in the lectures and textbook. This will provide students ample opportunity to achieve mastery of the concepts.

Major Themes Covered

Science as a Process, Evolution, Energy Transfer, Continuity and Change, Relationship of Structure to Function, Regulation, Interdependence in Nature, and Science, Technology, and Society

Expectations of Students:

- Be self-motivated to do your best and take ownership of your learning.
- Complete the summer assignment. Spend at least 30 minutes each night studying.
- Be prepared for class by watching assigned lectures at home and reading the textbook.
- Follow all safety and behavior requirements; be respectful, responsible and curious!
- Maintain open communication with the teacher.

Recommended Supplies

Notebook (can be a composition book or a spiral notebook)
3-ring binder or folder with loose-leaf paper and graph paper
black and blue pens; #2 pencils; and colored pencils or markers



Grading Policy

Daily Work: (20% of grade)

Homework: A monthly calendar will be posted in class and on the website. You are responsible for checking it and completing the assigned homework each night. This will usually be watching video lectures and reading sections of the textbook. To maintain accountability, there are quizzes at the end of each video lecture that you should take (results are emailed to me each night). If you are unable to do so, written notes in your notebook will suffice. At the start of each class period, you will answer warm-up questions based on the assigned video/reading. Occasionally you will be expected to complete a lab or in class assignment at home.

Class work: You will have a variety of activities to complete during class time. These assignments will generally be checked for completion. Don't leave questions blank; always try!

Participation: (10% of grade) Ninety participation points are awarded each six weeks. Thirty points can be lost for tardiness, inappropriate cell phone usage, and lack of participation in class activities. Notebook checks count as 60 points (see Policies and Procedures). The video lecture quizzes you submit at night will count towards the 60-point notebook check.

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Labs: (25% of grade) Before performing a lab, you must complete two assignments. 1) In your notebook, list the variables of the lab and write a hypothesis. Include a diagram or a brief overview of the procedure in your own words. This will be checked and initialed at the beginning of class. 2) For the “baker’s dozen” an online quiz must be submitted by 11:59pm the night before the lab. If either is not completed, you will do them during class and stay after school to make up the lab.

Lab write-ups or packets are checked for correct understanding of the concepts being studied and analysis of the data gathered. **These are NOT completion grades.**

Tests: (35% of grade) In order to best prepare students for the AP exam, two tests will be given for every unit – a multiple choice test and an essay test (either one longer essay or two shorter essays). **Students may retake multiple choice tests by appointment** during the six weeks in which the test was taken, as long as they continue to increase their score. Students will receive the highest grade earned on the test (see Policies and Procedures).

Students can earn extra credit for each test by earning an 80% or better on online **post-tests** (first link on the Quia website) for the unit chapters and emailing me the results.

The comprehensive semester exam is worth 10% of the final grade.

Extra Credit: There are four extra credit projects described on www.sciencefreaks.com. Students may earn up to 100 extra credit points each semester. Extra credit projects will NOT be accepted late. There may be other opportunities for extra credit during a semester; these will not count towards the 100 total points possible from the four online projects.

Student Expectations

Be in class. CHS policy states that students will lose credit after the 12th absence during a semester. It is very hard to catch up on the work missed.

Check the website (www.quia.com/pages/babraham/apbio) often for updated information.

Be in your seat with the necessary materials when the tardy bell rings. For each tardy, you will lose participation points. In addition, you will receive a warning for the first tardy. For every subsequent tardy, you will be assigned a 30 minute detention.

You may have beverages in the classroom on non-lab days. Eating is NEVER allowed in a lab classroom. **If you eat in the classroom, you will be asked to throw your food away.**

Follow all rules as stated in the parent/student handbook.

Communication

If at any time during the school year, you are feeling anxious about an assignment or have questions, you have three ways to contact me or check up on class activities.

- 1) class website: www.quia.com/pages/babraham/apbio
- 2) my email: mrsabraham@hotmail.com
- 3) my school phone: 360-833-5750



AP Test Incentive

Students may earn a better semester grade based on their AP exam results. If you earn a 5, you may bump up one letter grade for both semesters or two letter grades in a single semester. If you earn a 4, you may bump up one letter grade for one semester or a half letter grade for both semesters. If you earn a 3, you may bump one semester grade a half letter (from a B to a B+). To earn the grade bump, most of the regular course work must have been completed during the semester for which you would like the grade bump. **YOU are responsible for emailing me to initiate the grade change.**

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Classroom Policies and Procedures
Mrs. Abraham

- 1) You will be expected to **keep a notebook** in which you can take notes as you watch the video lectures and read the textbook at home. You will also record your answers to the warm up exercises, unit Top Ten lists, and anything else you or I deem necessary for success. Each six weeks I will check your notebook for organization and completeness for 60 participation points.
- 2) A) **Assignments are due** by 11:59pm the day they are due. Assignments are also accepted for 10% off until 11:59pm the next class day (**GRACE day**). After the GRACE day, **late work is NOT accepted**.
B) Assignments can be emailed to me until 11:59pm on the day they are due to be considered on time. Pictures of the assignment are acceptable, as long as the hard copy is turned in the next day. Digital documents **MUST** be .doc, .docx, .rtf, .txt., or .pdf files. If you send me an assignment with a different extension, it will not be graded! USB drives are also acceptable ways to turn in your work if absolutely necessary. **Computer/printer failures are not acceptable excuses for late work**.
- 3) There are **three places you can look** to find out upcoming assignment due dates or test dates – 1) the assignment board, 2) the monthly calendar, and 3) the class webpage (www.quia.com/pages/babraham/apbio). There are **NO** excuses for not knowing!
- 4) **NO NAME WORK** that has been graded will be placed in the “No Name Bin.” If you think you turned in an assignment but have a “0” for a grade, check the “No Name Bin” first. If you find one of your assignments, write your name on the top and turn it back in to the INBOX. Your grade will be updated as quickly as possible. *NOTE: Assignments marked “*” automatically show up under “missing assignments” in Skyward. They aren’t missing, just not graded yet. Please don’t email me about those assignments until a grade has been submitted.*
- 5) A) **If you are ABSENT**, you are responsible for turning in assignments due when you were absent as soon as you return to school (**there is no extra GRACE day for you**). You should also pick up any papers passed out when you were absent from the “Missed Work” folder. You are responsible for getting the assignments done and turned in by the assigned due date, which will be written at the top.
B) If you are ABSENT for a test/lab, **you are expected to make up the test/lab on the day you return to class**. If that is not possible, you must arrange a time when you return to make up the test/lab within ONE WEEK of your absence. After that, no make ups will be accepted.
- 6) **Test retakes** are by appointment only. If you do not show up for your scheduled appointment, you forfeit the privilege to retake that test. If this happens more than twice, you forfeit the privilege to retake any future tests. You must earn a higher score on the test retake **AND GET THE MATH QUESTION CORRECT** or you keep the first test score earned and may forfeit the privilege to retake future tests. Retakes are only available until the end of the six weeks in which the test was taken.
- 7) You may NOT go to the **bathroom** during group work time, videos, or labs. If you **MUST** go during other class activities, you may write your name and the time on the bottom right corner of the whiteboard, take the pass, and leave quietly. When you return, erase your name. If you are gone longer than five minutes, your bathroom privileges may be revoked.
- 8) **For EVERY chapter we cover**, you will complete the Reviewing This Chapter questions at the end of the chapter. The answers **MUST** be typed and submitted via turnitin.com by 11:59pm on the day of the unit test. If you want to earn extra credit, you can define the vocabulary terms for each chapter (including a synonym or picture) and earn five more points for each chapter you complete. Vocabulary **MUST** be handwritten and turned in in class to earn credit. **If you earn at least a 90% on the unit test (BEFORE extra credit is added) you are excused from the next unit’s work.**

Student Signature

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