

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 Units Covered

Ecology, Chemistry of Life, Cell Structure and Function, Cellular Energetics, Cell Communication, Cell Cycle, Heredity, Genetic Expression and Regulation, Biotechnology, Natural Selection

Expectations of Students:

- Be self-motivated to do your best and take ownership of your learning.
- 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.

Supplies

****Required: one composition or spiral notebook**

****Required: one 8.5x11 sketchbook, minimum 80 blank pages**

Recommended: 3-ring binder or folder with loose-leaf paper and graph paper

Recommended: black and blue pens; #2 pencils; and colored pencils or markers



Grading Policy

Daily Work/Class Assignments: (20% of grade)

Homework: Monthly calendars are posted in class and on the website. You are responsible for completing the assigned homework each night, which is usually watching video lectures, completing the in-video quiz at the end, and reading the textbook. If you are unable to take the video quiz, written notes in your composition notebook will suffice as evidence of completion. Occasionally you will complete a lab or in class assignment at home.

Class work: Most classes will begin with warm ups, questions to answer in your notebook based on the video lectures or assigned reading. (See Policies and Procedures #1 for more information about the notebook). You will complete a variety of activities during class time. These assignments will be graded on a 2-point scale: two points if completed and submitted on time, one point if incomplete or late, and no points if not done at all.

Quizzes: Quizzes can be given at any time, usually for 10-20 points in this category. Be prepared for the unexpected!

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Labs: (35% 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 many labs, an online quiz must be submitted by 11:59 pm 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.

Labs are checked for correct understanding of the concepts being studied and analysis of the data gathered. **These are NOT completion grades.**

Tests: (45% of grade; 10% of which is the semester exam) Two tests will be given for every unit – an MC test and an FRQ test. **Students may retake multiple choice tests by appointment and with a classmate** (see Policies and Procedures #6). Students can earn extra credit for each test by earning >75% on **progress checks** (AP Classroom).

Extra Credit: There are several extra credit projects described on www.sciencefreaks.com. Students may earn up to 15 extra credit points in the daily work category and 30 points in the lab category each semester. Extra credit projects will NOT be accepted late. There may be opportunities for extra credit during a semester; these do not count towards the maximum points possible.

Student Expectations

Be in class. Due to the flipped classroom, it is difficult to make up missed work on your own, and you miss out on the learning that occurs due to peer tutoring and clarification of misconceptions.

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. 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.**

Use your cell phone wisely. Follow the class norms established the first week of school.

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

Communication

If at any time, you feel anxious about an assignment or have questions, find answers on the website or contact me.

- 1) class website: www.quia.com/pages/babraham/apbio
- 2) my email: brianna.abraham@camas.wednet.edu
- 3) my school phone: 360-833-5750 ext. 77379



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.**

Classroom Policies and Procedures
Mrs. Abraham

- 1) You must **keep a composition or spiral 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. Notebooks are due the day of each unit MCQ exam and will be checked for organization and completeness.
- 2) **For EVERY unit**, you will create One Page Wonders in the required sketch book. I will discuss the specifics of this assignment in class. This is due by 11:59 pm on the day of the unit test and will make a great study tool in the spring when you are preparing for the AP exam.
- 3) A) **Assignments are due** by 11:59pm on the due date. Assignments are accepted for 10% off by 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 due date to be considered on time. Pictures or digital scans of the assignment are acceptable, **as long as the hard copy is turned in the next day**. **Computer/printer failures are not acceptable excuses for late work**.
- 4) 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!
- 5) **NO NAME WORK** that is graded is 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.
- 6) 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 lab, **you need to schedule a meeting with Abe within ONE WEEK of your absence to review the lab procedure and discuss how you can make up the activity**.
C) If you are ABSENT for a test, the test will be delivered to the **Learning Center, where you will have ONE WEEK after returning to school to take it**. The Learning Center is generally open from 8:00 am to 3:55 pm.
- 7) **MC 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 once, you forfeit the privilege to retake any test. You must retake the test WITH A PARTNER and meet with me BEFORE you retake to review what you missed the first time. If your second score is lower than your first, you forfeit the privilege to retake future tests. Retakes are only available until the next unit test.
- 8) 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.



Student Signature

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