

ADVANCED PLACEMENT BIOLOGY
Ms. Tuason – Fall 2022
COURSE SYLLABUS

Email: otuason@gusd.net

A. Introduction:

The main course goal is to prepare each of you for the A.P. Exam that will be taken in May, and you will be eligible to earn college credit. The goal is to make you aware of important information, new techniques, turn you on to the study of the world around you, and the relevance Biology has in your life. Throughout this class, you will develop analytical skills, be introduced to new laboratory techniques, and refine your written communication. The AP Biology Curriculum is framed around [eight units](#):

- 1. Chemistry of Life**
- 2. Cell Structure and Function**
- 3. Cellular Energetics**
- 4. Cell Communication and Cell Cycle**
- 5. Heredity**
- 6. Gene Expression and Regulation**
- 7. Natural Selection**
- 8. Ecology**

We will tie these eight units every single day throughout the entire year. This course is very rigorous and requires much time and effort to succeed. As a result, I hope that you develop a passion for the subject matter, as well as discover a real world connection. It is my expectation that you come to class prepared each day (with assigned readings and any daily work done before class begins) so you can be actively involved in classroom discussions and activities.

B. Course Description:

The Advanced Placement Biology course is designed to be the equivalent of a *College Introductory Biology Course* taken by science majors during their first year. A college biology course differs significantly from the usual high school course in respect to the textbook used, the range and depths of topics covered, the laboratory work done by students, and the time and effort required. Again, each night you need to read the material which will be discussed in class the next day. In addition, if you have difficulty when reading about specific topics, you may want to utilize “youtube.com” to find educational video clips from Mastering Biology, Khan Academy, Crash Course, and Bozeman Biology to help with understanding.

C. Requirements:

1. **Classroom Materials:** Campbell Biology, AP 11th Edition textbook, access to Google Classroom and scanning device, pencil, pen (black and red), college-ruled paper, graph paper, calculator.
2. You will need to come prepared to class every day with classroom materials, assigned readings, and homework. A lecture class will include a mixture of PowerPoint presentations, discussions, case studies, and problem solving questions.
3. We will be doing 13 AP labs as well as a few additional ones to help enhance your knowledge and understanding of the topics of the year. You will be asked to answer analysis questions after all of the laboratories, as well as graphing and manipulating data. For each of the AP labs, you may be asked to write a full lab report, mini-poster presentation, or Google slide presentation, take a pre-lab quiz, or take a post-lab quiz. The laboratory experience will give each of you the opportunity to learn new physical skills, learn to work in groups, find out how biology really works, and create student driven experiments. You will be given the laboratory instructions several days in advance so you can come prepared to work. You will find that on some AP labs, you will be required to “design your own experiment” in order to ask a question. This student-driven learning will carry over into other activities done in the classroom.
4. Test questions will be similar to the A.P. exam that involve both multiple-choice questions and free response questions. You will be given several AP practice exams prior to the AP Biology exam taken in May. The Personal Progress Checks (PPC) on [My AP Classroom](#) will be assigned to check for understanding of concepts and to practice taking AP style questions.

D. Classroom Website: You may access the following classroom websites at the following addresses
<http://www.gusd.net/cvhs>
classroom.google.com
myap.collegeboard.org

You may use these websites to get the weekly homework assignments, due dates, and additional science websites. Syllabus, daily assignments, lab directions, handouts, links to videos will be posted in our Google Classroom.

E. Behavior: I have one all-encompassing rule: **Student behavior must foster, sustain, promote, and respect the learning process.** All other behavior will not be tolerated.

G. Grades - Grades are based on homework, classwork, tests, quizzes, labs, projects, and class participation.

Grading Scale:

90% - 100% = A
80% - 89% = B
70% - 79% = C
60% - 69% = D
0% - 59% = F



- I use a total points grading system. All the points will be accumulated, and the percentage will be calculated based on the total possible points.
- There is always some homework/reading you can/should be doing. Plan ahead. No time is given for make-up work except in special cases. It needs to be completed upon your return if you are absent.
- I do not accept late work except for excused absences.
- Requirements on submitting assignments will be provided on the first day of class. It is important that you follow the instructions and the rules since they are closely related to your learning process and success in this course.

H. Academic Honesty

What is cheating? CVHS sent home a detailed page explaining to each person what the honesty policy is for this school. Please review it. It can be found online at the [CVHS website](#). Plagiarism will not be tolerated.

**GUSD - honesty policy & electronic policy followed.

Homework: Do your own work using a textbook, notes, or other materials that are provided. Asking another student for answers is CHEATING. If someone asks you for the answers and you give it to them you will also receive the consequences of cheating. Asking another student for help in understanding the material is not cheating. Arranging that you will do the first five questions and your friend will do the second five and then you'll exchange answers is still cheating!

It is expected that when you come to class your homework will be done. While you are in class, we will review the answers. It is expected that you will correct your own answers during class while we review.

Tests: Once the first test has been distributed no talking will occur. Once all tests have been turned in and the teacher has told the class it is ok to talk, then students may do so. Talking, for whatever reason while a test is out, is considered cheating. Yes, even asking someone for an eraser is considered cheating. If you need an eraser, or a pencil or some other item, ask the teacher. Any talking during a test is considered cheating. Of course the obvious and not so obvious means of cheating are just that. No electronic devices may be used while taking a test. *If someone asks you for the answers and you give it to that person you will both receive the consequences of cheating. (* These are only allowed in special pre-arranged circumstances.)

Agenda: If you are absent you should refer to our Google Classroom or my website @ www.gusd.net/cvhs. When you return from your absence you may also ask your desk partner for the information. Filling in multiple blanks because you “forgot” when you were in class, on the day it is due is NOT acceptable and you will receive a zero grade.

Labs: While performing a lab, students should be writing down data as necessary. In some cases, a student might be performing a step and need to copy the data later during class. This is okay. Anything other than the Data section of a lab should be answered on your own.

ABSENT: If you miss the data collecting part it will be up to the teacher to tell you which option will apply:
1. Make up the lab
2. The data will be given to the student, and the student will answer all other questions on their own or
3. The score for the missed lab will be substituted with an average of all lab scores.

Projects: Written and oral projects will have specific instructions. Plagiarism will not be tolerated.

Notes: Notes do not receive a grade and therefore can be copied from anyone in any AP Biology class. There is no possible way to get in trouble for cheating with notes, at least in my class.

This list is by no means comprehensive, but I believe it provides specific examples that apply directly to my classroom. As always, please ask questions if something is not clear.

I. Cell phones and iPods: CV’s electronic device policy is: Cell phones may be brought onto school campus, but they are to be turned off. Students are prohibited from using them during instructional time unless given permission by a teacher and/or administrator. Cell phones may be used before and after school and during snack and lunch. The Board does not assume liability if such devices are damaged, lost, or stolen.

All policies can be found on-line at www.gusd.net/cvhs - Resources, Policies- dress, electronic devices, standards of student conduct, etc. Please review this policy, as it will be strictly enforced!

**GUSD - honesty policy & electronic policy followed.

By signing the next page, you (the student) understand that you have read all pages and you agree to abide by them. Please have your parent/guardian read all pages and sign this as well stating that it has been read and agreed to. Furthermore, I (the student) have read the pages and agree to follow the classroom rules and accept the consequences of my actions. I will not get answers from someone else. I understand that by placing my name on any paper, exam, lab, or homework, I am saying that the work is my own, from this semester and no part of it was copied from a friend or an electronic source without so noting.

Should you have other questions and concerns, please contact me at (818)249-5871 ext. 2205. The best time to contact me is during my conference period, period 6, or after 3:30 pm. You may also email me anytime at otuason@gusd.net.

I look forward to a challenging and rewarding year as we work together toward success in AP Biology.

Sincerely,

Ms. Orenda Tuason
AP Biology Teacher

