AP BIOLOGY

Mr. Geborkoff Room 131

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***Overview:*** This course is intended to be equivalent to a college introductory biology course taken by biology majors during their freshman year. Self-discipline is required.

***Grading:*** All items must be completed in a timely manner. The questions posed on the study guides, quizzes, lab reports, and tests are designed to reflect the types of questions on the AP Biology Exam.

**Tests= 40%**

**Quizzes = 30%**

**Laboratory Reports/procedures = 20 %**

**Assignments = 10%**

The primary assignments in this class will be the study guides and practice questions that go with each chapter. These are designed to prepare you for the types of questions you will see on tests, quizzes, and the AP exam. Study guides will earn you one point for each correct item and ½ point for each incorrect item. Only incomplete items will receive no credit. This is to encourage you to complete the study guides to the best of your ability. Once returned, I will go through each answer on the study guide in class to make each guide a very beneficial practice item for unit tests. Additional assignments will include take-home quizzes and practice written response or short answer questions. We will also make use of released AP exam items which must remain in the classroom.

Laboratory procedures and reports will scored separately. Due to the expensive and time-sensitive supplies required, it is often very difficult to make up missed laboratory procedures. Thus, good attendance is mandatory for AP Biology.

***Turning in items late:*** *All assignments and lab reports are due at the start of the period unless otherwise noted. One late “assignment” per marking period will be accepted with a 25% subtraction from the final score. No credit will be received for additional late assignments in any one marking period. Laboratory reports are not accepted late and cannot be turned in past the due date.*

***Tips for success:***

1. Take good notes: To mirror most college classes, I have posted general chapter note outlines on my website. *It is NOT my responsibility to print these for you.* Many students use these as a guide while reading chapters. Most classroom content will be presented via “guided notetaking,” which will include handouts to write on, the use of diagrams for understanding, sketches to model concepts, and several other items we complete together during the class period. Please use a designated folder to retain these items for this class.
2. Read: Please read the suggested pages as emphasized during class. The diagrams in the textbook will also be used extensively during class to reinforce content. We utilize one of the finest textbooks available for AP Biology. Failure to read for reinforcement works for very few students.
3. Show up: Good attendance is absolutely mandatory for meeting the goals of this course.
4. Prepare: Spend time with the material outside of class. R E A D. Form study groups. Communicate. Don’t hesitate to ask for help. Consider our class a team! Do not postpone getting help or clarification for any concept you are not sure about!

**Items to bring daily:**

1. Textbook
2. Class notes
3. Writing utensil
4. Any handouts currently in use for the unit

***One lunch period per week is required to be used as additional class time. We will vote as a class to determine which day of the week to use for this purpose. I will try to schedule major laboratory exercises and unit tests around this extra time period.***