

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

AP BIOLOGY – MS. RISTOW

"I can explain it for you, but I can not understand it for you" - Anonymous

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is an advanced placement course designed to prepare the student for the AP Biology exam. This course is equivalent to a two-semester introductory college biology course. The course is a rigorous course, with a strong laboratory and inquiry component. It is intended for students who have demonstrated a willingness to commit considerable time to studying and completing assignments outside of class. (Plan for **AT LEAST TWO HOURS EVERY DAY**) **Students will be required to do extensive writing, and to keep a thorough and accurate ongoing laboratory notebook.** Students who successfully complete a series of tests, quizzes, and lab simulations with a grade of C or better should do well on the exam. Students who struggle and earn less than a C grade should reevaluate their own study habits and seek the advice of the instructor.



My AP Biology course is designed to offer students a solid foundation in introductory college-level biology. By structuring the course around the four big ideas, enduring understandings, and science practices, I will assist students in developing an appreciation for the study of life and help them identify and understand unifying principles within a diversified biological world.

Since passing the AP exam may qualify the student to by-pass a first-year college biology course, AP Biology should **not** be considered "college prep". **Rather, this IS a college class, with college level expectations for behavior, participation and effort.** This is a 2nd year Biology course in laboratory science and is designed for those students who have successfully completed Biology (H), Chemistry (H), and Algebra I, and desire a challenging academic science course. This course will fulfill one of the two science credits required for high school graduation and will meet college entrance requirements for a laboratory science.

The College Board Advanced Placement Exam for Biology is given **May 11, 2020 @ 8:00 a.m.** All students in this class are expected to sit for the exam. The fee is approximately **\$94** (*unless a student qualifies for the reduced fee*) and must be paid in February. If a student passes the exam with a score of 3, 4, or 5 they may receive university credit for one semester of Biology (*depending on the college*). Most universities accept AP credit. Students are responsible to check with their university to see if AP Biology credit is accepted, and what score is required for credit.

From <http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=16&navoid=2830>

The following programs offer students the opportunity to earn credits through examination and military service. The maximum number of credits that may be applied toward a UNLV degree from these programs is 60. An official copy of appropriate grades/scores must be sent to the Office of Admissions directly from the school, testing service, or reporting agency.

Students who receive advanced placement credit may progress to more advanced courses. Students receiving credit for advanced placement may apply these credits toward the total required for a degree. As a result, it is possible to hasten the completion of degree requirements or to enroll for course work in greater depth and breadth than would otherwise be possible.

UNLV courses or requirements satisfied through Advanced Placement Scores

Biological Sciences - AP Biology Test Science (3 credits)	3
BIOL 189 (4 credits no lab)	4
BIOL 189 and either 196 or BIOL 197 with advisor evaluation (8 credits no lab) Can place into BIOL 103 or equivalent for laboratory credit.	5

Please see Biological Sciences catalog section and confer with the College of Sciences Advising Center for additional information about use of honors courses, SAT scores, AP courses and AP scores for Biological Sciences placement

UNLV's
POLICY for
2016-17



COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The AP Biology course is structured around the four big ideas (“BI”), the enduring understanding (“EU”) within the big ideas and the essential knowledge (“EK”) within the enduring understanding. The course is also structured around inquiry in the lab and the use of seven science practices (“SP”) throughout the course.

THE BIG IDEAS:

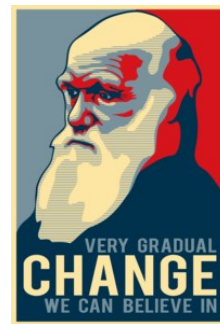
- **Big Idea 1:** The process of evolution drives the diversity and unity of life.
- **Big Idea 2:** Biological systems utilize free energy and molecular building blocks to grow, to reproduce, and to maintain dynamic homeostasis.
- **Big Idea 3:** Living systems store, retrieve, transmit, and respond to information essential to life processes.
- **Big Idea 4:** Biological systems interact, and these systems and their interactions possess complex properties.

THE SEVEN SCIENCE PRACTICES:

1. The student can use representations and models to communicate scientific phenomena and solve scientific problems.
2. The student can use mathematics appropriately.
3. The student can engage in scientific questioning to extend thinking or to guide investigations within the context of the AP course.
4. The student can plan and implement data collection strategies appropriate to a particular scientific question.
5. The student can perform data analysis and evaluation of evidence.
6. The student can work with scientific explanations and theories.
7. The student is able to connect and relate knowledge across various scales, concepts, and representations in and across domains.

MATERIALS: *Please bring the following materials to class every day:*

1. Writing implements: pen, pencil, eraser, **highlighters**, **colored** pencils
2. Post-it Notes
3. A calculator (simple “10 key”) – **NO SCIENTIFIC CALCULATORS ARE ALLOWED ON THE AP EXAM or class exams**
4. A hardcover (composition) notebook with graph paper (this is your lab book)
5. (Qty: 8) 100-subject spiral notebooks (*get the cheap ones – like \$0.15 – that Wal-Mart sells*)
(*These are for your notes for the entire year; this way you only need to carry one binder around at a time*)
6. A 3-ring binder (3” or so) - to keep at home – to hold previous unit material
7. *Cliff’s Notes for AP Biology*



COURSE CONTENT AND TOPIC OUTLINE:

The content and topics covered will be based upon the 4 big ideas and the 7 science practices.

**** At the start of each unit, the student will be given a calendar showing what will be covered and when items are due.**

**** At the end of each unit, the student will be given a “What You Should Know” review sheet to help them study and prepare for the test.**

LABORATORY SAFETY: *see safety contract*

YOU MUST WEAR GLASSES OR GOGGLES DURING A LAB AT ALL TIMES!

Failure to do so when instructed will result in one warning.
Failure to do so again will result in an "instant ZERO" on the lab.
Your safety contract **MUST** be on file **before** working in the lab.



WEBSITE:

<https://ristow.educatorpages.com/pages/ap-biology>

GRADING:

NOTE: CCSD Regulation 5127 was adopted on May 12, 2016. It states for High School Graduation Requirements, under Section II, Subsection B – **Weighted GPA Calculations:** “3. The weighted grade point factors for Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses shall be incorporated **ONLY** when a student participates in a cumulative examination.” **This means that you MUST take the AP Exam in May in order to receive the weighted GPA calculation for this course.**

Grades will be determined by taking the number of points earned divided by the number of total possible points. Points can be earned by participating in the following activities: tests, quizzes, laboratory exercises, homework, and classroom participation (**includes note taking**).

Participation grades will be judged solely by the teacher and will be determined upon the following factors: behavior, attitude, attendance (*excused or not*), note taking, completing assignments on time, and volunteering to put problems on the board or answer questions.

The opinion of the teacher on participation points in FINAL.

There are NO extra credit assignments

ON AVERAGE (Subject to Change):



Tests and Quizzes: 70%
Homework Assignments: 5%
LABS & Activities: 25%

ATTENDANCE:

In reference to CCSD Regulation 5113, Rancho High School follows the “11th Unexcused Absence/ No Credit Policy”. See the following website for more information on Regulation 5113:

http://ccsd.net/district/policies-regulations/pdf/5113_R.pdf

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Plagiarism in a school environment is academic dishonesty... aka: **CHEATING**. It will not be tolerated and, if discovered, will be dealt with severely. The consequences may include receiving a grade of zero on that assignment, failing the quarter/semester, and/or being RPC'd or expelled from Rancho High School.

In *Webster's Dictionary*, plagiarism is defined as:

1. To steal and pass off (the ideas of another) as one's own.
2. To use (a created production) without crediting the source.
3. To commit literary theft.
4. To present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source.

Directly copying someone else's work and then taking full credit for it is the most flagrant kind of plagiarism.

However, there are other, more subtle forms of plagiarism. For example, in a science course:

1. Copying someone else's ideas and answers on a test or quiz is cheating.
2. Giving or receiving information on exams outside the classroom is cheating.
3. Accepting or giving help during a test or quiz, or using a calculator or notes without expressed permission of the teacher. (This includes using notes stored on a calculator.)
4. **Directly copying someone's homework is plagiarism.** Working together on assignments is acceptable if ideas are shared, but the actual transcription onto paper must be an individual effort.
5. **Directly copying answers from a text is plagiarism.** It is usually not necessary to credit one's own text when giving answers, but ideas from any other book must be footnoted.
6. Science research papers are governed by the same rules that apply to all research papers. Facts and commonly accepted ideas need not be acknowledged, but all opinions, interpretations of facts, original ideas, charts, and direct quotes must be footnoted.
7. **Using someone else's data without giving credit or, worse, making up data to fit the expected answer are forms of plagiarism.** It is acceptable to present your own obviously erroneous data, to state the reasons that you feel the results should be disregarded, and then to present another student's data – making sure that the source is acknowledged.
8. Classes may be videotaped at any time to document good and bad behaviors.

The educational process is based on the principle that the less educated learn from the ideas of the more educated. Students should, therefore, use ideas and opinions of others. This is not plagiarism. Plagiarism occurs when this use is NOT acknowledged.

CLASS PROCEDURES AND OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION:

- a. **Exams:** Chapter, quarter, and semester exams will be based on assigned readings, classroom demonstrations, presentations, lectures, discussion, laboratory work, as well as previous AP Exam test questions. Exams have been designed to represent a “mini-AP exam”, and therefore will contain the following: multiple choice, “grid-in”, short free response, and long free response.
- For each unit, you will be given a “Homework Log”. On the day of the exam you will turn in that HW Log. If 90% of the homework was completed (on time), your test score will be curved.
- b. **Homework** will be given **DAILY** and will usually be due the following class period.
- While homework may only be worth 5% of your semester grade, it is an **ESSENTIAL** study technique that needs to be taken seriously. Copying someone else’s homework, or getting the answer of the internet does not help you learn the material, and is just a waste of your time.
- c. **Late and Make-up Work:** Students will be expected to turn in all work on time, unless absent on the day an assignment is due.
- (1) Work turned in on the due date will be eligible for full credit.
NO LATE WORK IS ACCEPTED!
 - (2) Students that are absent the **day an assignment is due** are expected to turn in in the **next class day**; if you are absent **the day an assignment is given**, you have the **# of days that you are absent** to make it up
Students that are **absent the day a lab is due**: as you know the due date (as labs are a multi-day procedure) – the lab is **DUE THE DAY** you come back.
 - (3) Students that are absent the day of a **TEST/QUIZ** will be **EXPECTED** to take the test/quiz **IN CLASS THE DAY** that they **RETURN** to school
 - If you have a pre-arranged absence, or will be absent the day of an exam for a school activity – you are expected to take the test **THE DAY BEFORE** the scheduled exam.
- d. **Semester Exams:** A comprehensive semester final exam **will be** administered at the end of the second and fourth quarters. This semester exam will cover all the material studied during both of the associated quarters.

COMPUTATION AND WEIGHTING OF STUDENT GRADES:

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Percent Range</u>
A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	Below 59%

I CAN'T BRAIN TODAY...



...I HAVE THE DUMB.

Semester grades will be computed using the same rubric, but weighting the quarter and final exam grades as follows:

40% (first quarter) + 40% (second quarter) + 20% (final exam)
40% (third quarter) + 40% (fourth quarter) + 20% (final exam)

HOW AND WHEN STUDENTS WILL BE ADVISED OF THEIR GRADES:

Students should check Infinite Campus often to identify any problems with their recorded grade. Never discard any assignment, quiz, or test until you see your grade posted. *If I fail to post a grade for you, you will be easily able to produce the graded assignment to correct my error.*

You have ONE WEEK to notify me of an incorrect grade.

Teachers distribute report cards IN CLASS approximately 1.5 weeks after the end of the quarter, except for the final report cards that are mailed home in June.


EXTRA INSTRUCTION:

I am here for only one reason - to help each of you be successful. In college, a professor will not stop the class to help an individual “get it”, and neither will I. That does not mean that I do not want you to succeed, but your understanding is going to be **your responsibility**. Feel free to come in before school, after school, or during lunch (what college professors call their “Office Hours”) and I will help you as much as I can. But, as “life happens”, **please try and schedule an appointment** to make sure I can be there for you.

What is a successful AP Biology Student?

One that **does not** expect learning to be easy and instantaneous, but has the confidence that understanding *WILL* come from persistence, interaction with ideas and natural phenomena, dialogue with peers and teachers, attention to other possible ideas, and a willingness to change their views on the basis of compelling new evidence.

CLASSROOM RULES: (or the top 10 ways to make Ms. Rjstow happy and give you all of your participation points!)

- 1. DO NOT TEXT IN CLASS... it's RUDE, and is a VERY QUICK, GUARANTEED way for me to not grant you any “favors”.**
- 2. Bring materials to class.** You will not be allowed to go to you locker because “you forgot something”.
-  **3. Do NOT bring food or drink**, as this room is a working laboratory. (Water in a closable container is ok on days we are not doing labs.)
- 4. Follow all instructions, ESPECIALLY in the laboratory.** Dress appropriately for lab. “Crazy lab antics” will result in the IMMEDIATE REMOVAL of you from this course!

5. If you are going to be/have been absent, it is **YOUR** responsibility to see me about a make-up assignment. Please **DO NOT DO THIS DURING the class period**. You will be given a calendar at the start of each unit to let you know what we're doing.

Assignments are also available at:

<http://teacherweb.com/NV/RanchoHighSchool/MsRistow/index.html>

If only a **test day** is missed, the student **MUST** take the test in class **THE DAY you RETURN TO SCHOOL**. For a school activity absence, tests must be taken, during class, **THE DAY BEFORE** the activity. *IT IS THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO TELL THE TEACHER THEY WILL BE GONE ON AN ACTIVITY SO THAT THE TEACHER CAN ARRANGE TO HAVE THE TEST READY!*

6. **Do your homework** - the only way to succeed is to practice! Class time is for working, not playing. Biology assignments come first. Should you complete your Biology assignment, then you may work on something else. Wasting time (playing cards, etc.) will not be tolerated.

7. **Do not talk** while someone else (especially Ms. Ristow) is talking. **Please raise your hand** if you have a question and I will call on you as soon as I am at a stopping point. **This is an AP class, and I expect the student to act like they are in a college classroom.**

8. While attendance is taken, get your materials ready for the day (you have a calendar, you know what we're doing that day). Be ready to start as soon as I am finished! Please be on time. **You are considered tardy if you enter the doorway after the bell rings. Tardy #1 is "free", every tardy after results in a loss of 15 points.**

9. Please do not leave the room unless it is absolutely necessary. Leaving the room without permission, unless in an emergency situation, will result in a referral.

10. All jokes made by the teacher, no matter how stupid, must be tolerated.



DISCIPLINE:

There is one rule in this classroom, which encompasses almost everything: **mutual courtesy, mutual respect**. Behavioral infractions will be dealt with between the student and the teacher, or may result in parent contacts, parent conferences or dean's referrals. Severe classroom disruptions will result in an automatic dean's referral.

- Verbal Warning
- Warning/Move Seat/ Detention
- Point Deduction
- Phone Call to Parent
- Parent Conference
- Referral to Dean