Advanced Placement Biology Syllabus 2018-2019

Dr. Colleen Fordyce
Email: colleen.fordyce@aps.edu cell: 415-971-8452

Advanced Placement Biology is a course taken in high school through which you can earn college credit if you use your time, your talents, and efforts to the fullest. AP Biology will discuss the origins of life, cell and molecular biology, Mendelian genetics, Biochemistry, Ecology and Evolution. We will be using Campbell’s ninth edition AP Biology textbook.

Being enrolled in this Advanced Placement course speaks well for you. Students who complete AP courses are better prepared academically for college, more likely to specialize in more challenging majors, more likely to graduate from college in four years, more likely to graduate with a double major, and twice as likely to go into advanced study, such as Ph.D. programs, medicine and law. I want you to do well in this course. You may need to adopt different study habits and strategies to be successful.

Website: All non-copywritten materials from class can be found on my google classroom. Students must log into classroom.google.com using their APS ID number and password. Then enter the class code: yr3wea.

Absences: Both to discourage absences and prevent them from interrupting the educational process:
- Missed labs and exams must be made up at my convenience and as soon as you return to school.
- You are still expected to take the notes from the day you missed and complete all assignments. We will discuss how this can be done through my website.
- Due dates for absent students will be postponed only by what is required by the school absence policy.
- ALL class items including daily notes are posted on the website so there are no excuses!!

Materials:
- 3-subject spiral notebook
- Black or blue pens and pencil w eraser
- Simple 4-function calculator with log and exponents buttons.

Notebook: You will use a class notebook to record and store notes, homework, labs, case studies etc. Your notebook will be collected at the beginning of class on the day of each exam for a grade. Maintaining your notebook is an easy way to boost your grade. It will also be a valuable tool for studying.

Assignments: This will consist of Cornell Notes, Video notes, practice essays, projects, and case studies. Homework should automatically be placed in the ‘In’ basket when you enter the room before the bell rings. All homework must be turned in before any school related absence.

Labs: Your lab grade will be based upon your pre-lab preparation, your performance in lab, and your completed lab write-up. You will be provided with a guide and rubric for lab reports. We will not do full lab write-ups for all labs. On a few labs, we will just fill in the already prepared tables and answer the questions.

Tests & Quizzes: You will have a vocabulary quiz nearly every week. Occasionally quizzes will also include other class material. Your tests will be modeled after the AP exam: about 60% multiple choice and 40% essay, which includes solving math problems as they relate to the topic at hand. Tests are timed, as is the AP exam, so you can get used to thinking quickly. You may find the tests difficult at first because the emphasis will be on the synthesis of ideas, not only spitting back facts. We will have a test about every six weeks. You should consider each test to be a midterm exam. For many tests, you will have the opportunity to do test corrections on multiple-choice questions for half credit. There will be a strict time limit for this if you choose to do so, and all work must be done
in my classroom on your own time, such as during lunch or before school. It is imperative that you learn to analyze your test taking, and that you gain an understanding of questions that you miss, which are my goals in allowing you to do corrections. You must bring a four-function calculator with a square root button to each test and quiz. Calculators with more functions will not be allowed.

**Grading:** All grades are posted (with up to a 1-week delay) and available online at synergy.aps.edu. 18-week semester grades will be based on the following percentages: (6-week progress reports roll into the 18-week grade)

- 20% homework, classwork, projects
- 35% laboratory activities/reports/case studies
- 10% notebook
- 35% tests and quizzes

Semester grades are determined by counting the **18-week grade as 80% and the final exam as 20%.**

**Academic Integrity:** Your work is your own. There is no excuse for cheating/copying/plagiarizing materials/ideas from someone else. Do your own work and be proud of the success that comes with it! I take cheating very seriously.

LCHS School policy on cheating:
- 1st offense: all involved get zeroes, a referral, and parent contact.
- 2nd offense: student will receive a W/F from the class.

**Lab Fee Donation:** AP Biology is a lab-intensive course. Many of the best labs use materials that have to be replenished each year. The vast majority of lab materials are paid for by donations. If you are able, please make a donation for lab supplies; checks should be payable to La Cueva High School. You will also be asked to bring shared supplies once per semester.

**AP Exam:** The AP test will be given Monday, May 13, 2019. As preparation for the exam, all students will take an AP practice test in class. You are encouraged to take the AP Biology exam after completing this class. Many colleges and universities will grant you science credits with a passing grade on this exam. I will host exam reviews beginning after spring break. More information will be provided during the second semester.

I am looking forward to a year that is both rewarding and exciting! I hope that by the end of this year you love biology as much as I do. Let’s have a great year.

Dr. Colleen Fordyce

Please sign below and have your parents read and sign below. This is your first grade, make it an A+.

______________________________________________________________________________  ________________________________________________________________________
Student name (printed)                                                      Parent name (printed)

______________________________________________________________________________  ________________________________________________________________________
Student Signature                                                      Parent Signature