



Course: *Advanced Placement Biology*

Department: Science

Instructor: Ms. Malone

Megan.Malone@sdhc.k12.fl.us

"In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity." - Albert Einstein

Pre-programming meeting: Riverview High will be holding a meeting prior to students committing to a 2011-2012 class schedule to further discuss the requirements and prerequisites for AP classes. Date of meeting to be announced.

Conference Availability: Students may meet with me regarding any course questions on my conference period (6th), during lunch tutoring in room 221, or after school until 3:15.

Approx. Study Time Commitment: This depends on your proficiency with biological concepts and your own personal studying style- minimum 5 hours a week

Types of Homework Assignments: Students can expect to complete regular Concept Checks, online activities and section outlines in the Cornell Note style. These Concept Checks and notes will be essential for the following day's lecture and will be checked at the beginning of class for completion. Out of class work will also include creative projects, outside research, essays, and guided readings with comprehension questions

Class work: Completion of class work is essential to student success in this course. Students can expect to class work to consist of: lecture and note-taking, tests and quizzes, labs, projects, reading and note-taking, discussion.

Prerequisites: The minimum prerequisites for this course are Biology I and Chemistry I (Preferably Honors) with a minimum of a B grade in each course. Chemistry can be taken concurrently with this course. Students considering this course *should* have at least a B GPA (3.0) as this is demonstrative of the hardworking student you will need to be to be successful in this course. Other advisable (but not required) successfully completed courses include Algebra I. ***Students feeling anxious about meeting these requirements are encouraged to meet with me.***

Recommended FCAT Scores: Students who have not scored at least a "3" on the FCAT reading and math may be at a disadvantage due to the quantity of reading, note-taking, and mathematical concepts in this course. Highly motivated students with lower test scores will need to spend additional time each week studying or seeking out tutoring in order to maintain an acceptable grade.

Grading: Grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

- 25% Tests and quizzes
- 20% Lecture and note-taking
- 20% Labs
- 15% Homework
- 15% Projects
- 5 % Discussion



Late Work Policy: NO LATE WORK ACCEPTED. This is an AP course. I would be doing you a great disservice to accept late work. Your college professors will not, so we will begin practicing good study behaviors now.

Materials Required: Students will need to bring to class daily:

- 3-ring one inch binder
- Paper
- Writing utensil
- Text book (will be assigned by me)

Summer Assignments: Students will be required to cover material independently over the summer. Assignments will be distributed prior to leaving for summer break. Students are encouraged to meet with fellow classmates and form study groups to complete the assignments as this is a highly beneficial college-level study behavior to develop.

AP Bio Course Description: The Advanced Placement Biology course is designed to be the equivalent of a college introductory biology course, usually taken by biology majors during their first year. The AP Biology course 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 kind of laboratory work performed by students, and the time and effort required of students. AP Biology aims to provide students with the conceptual framework, factual knowledge, and analytical skills necessary to deal critically with the rapidly changing science of biology. The goal of a college introductory biology course, and therefore of an AP Biology course, is to provide a learning environment that enables students to develop a solid understanding of the principal concepts in biology. College Board guidelines are followed in shaping the course.

Objectives:

- To understand the concepts presented in an introductory college biology course.
- To acquire laboratory skills needed in the study of biology.
- To promote interest in the study of the biological sciences and appreciation for the place of science in modern society.
- To prepare students for the Advanced Placement Biology Examination.

Course Layout:

I. Molecules and Cells (25%)

The Chemistry of Life (Unit One)
The Cell (Unit Two)

II. Heredity and Evolution (25%)

Genetics (Unit Three)
Mechanisms of Evolution (Unit Four)

III. Organisms and Populations (50%)

The Evolutionary History of Biological Diversity (Unit Five)
Plant Form and Function (Units Six)
Animal Form and Function (Unit Seven)
Ecology (Unit Eight)

