

# WELCOME TO AP BIOLOGY!

**Mark Keppel High School**  
**Alhambra, CA 91801**

## TEACHER'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Teacher: Ms. May Ng  
School Number: (626) 943-6700

E-mail: [ng\\_may@ausd.us](mailto:ng_may@ausd.us)  
Class Location: Room B119

Website: <http://www.msngs.weebly.com>

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Advanced Placement (AP) Biology course is intended to be equivalent to an introductory biology course taken by college freshmen at the university level. This college course in biology offers students the opportunity to participate in an internationally recognized program whose high standards are widely known and highly regarded by 200 universities in the United States alone.

The AP Biology course is very different from your high school biology class taken during your freshman or sophomore year. The supplemental materials, textbook, pace of instruction, range and depth of topics covered, and laboratory activities presented in AP Biology are equal to the academic level and standards of a typical university-based laboratory science course. AP Biology students need to recognize that substantially greater effort and time is required on their part to successfully complete course demands and challenges. Students are expected to spend at least 1-2 unsupervised hours (a.k.a. students' personal time) per day to read, study, & review materials covered in lecture and/or labs. At the end of the school year, students who take and demonstrate mastery of the content on the Advanced Placement Exam in biology, may earn university credit towards enrolling into an advanced level biological sciences course.

The course and the AP Exam are organized into three major instructional areas. The breakdown of AP Biology is as followed:

### The Big Ideas!

- I. Process of Evolution
- II. Cellular Process & Energetics
- III. Genetics & Heredity
- IV. Interactions of Biological Systems

## REQUIRED CLASS MATERIALS (Check list)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biology, by Neil Campbell, 7 <sup>th</sup> ed. (2005) | <input type="checkbox"/> College-rule Lined Paper    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Subject Spiral Notebook for AP Biology              | <input type="checkbox"/> Notebook Pockets            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> #2 Pencil or Lead Pencil & Eraser                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Carbon Copy Lab Notebook    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Highlighter   | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 function basic calculator |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black-ink pen(s)                                      |  |

## CHARACTERISTICS OF A *Homo apbiologicus*

- 1) They love **CHALLENGES!**
- 2) A **SENSE OF HUMOR** is a mandatory characteristic of their species.
- 3) These unique organisms have had a heavy dose of **biology & chemistry** in their background.
- 4) **HARDWORKING, RESPONSIBLE, & SELF-DECIPLINED?** My goodness, they invented the words!

## 5) **INDEPENDENT THINKERS** – nothing is too different - AS LONG AS DATA SUPPORTS THEIR IDEAS

### **GRADING**

Grades for individual & group work, labs, tests, & quizzes are determined by the total points you earn relative to the possible number of points per assignment. I will automatically round your final semester grade up to the next letter grade if you are in the 9.8% range (this includes any extra credit), otherwise there will be no further discussion for any other grade changes.

-Letter grades are assigned based on the following scale:

A = 90-100%      B = 80-89%      C = 70-79%      D = 60-69%      F = 59.9% & below

### **CLASS PROTOCOL**

1. **AP Biology Notebook:** You will be required to keep a notebook for all work done in this class. Your notebook should also include notebook folders to keep loose papers in order. Bring this to class everyday.

2. **Homework:** READ! READ! & REVIEW! I **CANNOT** stress enough that you must keep up with the assigned readings and review class notes. Most homework will be in the form of chapter reviews due the day of the unit test. There will not be daily homework checks, it is your responsibility that you complete your assignments in a timely matter and meet important deadlines. **MANAGE YOUR TIME WISELY!**

### 3. **Exams & Quizzes:**

- Tests (40 pts) are given approximately every 1½ -2 weeks. (25 MC Questions, Grid-in , 1 Essay, & 1 Short Answer Question)
- Pop Quizzes will be based on chapter readings or lecture/lab materials. (Points earned from Pop quizzes are considered “positive points” and will be added to the next major test).
- Occasional quizzes will be given, and will count towards or against your overall grade in the class.

4. **Lab Report Notebook:** Students are required to maintain and have a spiral or bound carbon copy graph paper notebook for laboratory write-ups. The requirements & format for the Lab Report Journal will be discussed at a later time. Lab write-ups are due **one week** after the conclusion of the lab.

5. **Late Work Policy:** All assignments are due at the beginning of the period. There is no such thing as “late work” in college; so the same applies to AP Biology.

6. **Make-Up Tests/ Labs:** Unless you are deathly ill or have a family crisis, I urge you to come to class. If you are absent on a test date or lab day, you will need to bring me a doctor’s note or some legitimate document stating the reason for your absence. Special arrangements will be made for you to make-up tests and lab work. But please, try not to be absent on these days.

7. **Projects & Presentations:** Special projects will be assigned throughout the year to help fine tune research, writing, artistic, and presentation skills. More importantly, these projects are to help teach & reinforce concepts introduced in lectures and labs.

8. **Q & A sessions** will be available a day before a major test, usually after school. I will also be available via our class facebook group, from 5:00pm-6:00pm.

9. **Study Sessions:** Please refer to [AP Biology Course Agenda](#) for dates. We will use that time to conduct labs, to review concepts covered in the curriculum, or practice test taking strategies. Attendance is optional, but it is **highly** recommended that you attend as many Study Sessions as possible, especially designated lab dates. So don't miss out!

Cheating & Plagiarism: If you are caught or suspected of cheating of any kind or plagiarizing someone else's work as your own, you and your accomplices will get an automatic zero on that assignment. And further actions will be considered.

**A Note from Ms. Ng:** It is important to uphold a code of conduct that demonstrates integrity and honesty in the class. The last thing that you would want to do is to lose my trust and respect for you. So, don't even think about it!

Once you and your parent or guardian have read this information and agree with its terms, please sign, date, & return to Ms. Ng.

KEEP A COPY OF THE COURSE SYLLABUS IN YOUR NOTEBOOK

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Name (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian's Name  
(Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date