ADVANCED PLACEMENT BIOLOGY

COURSE OVERVIEW

Instructor: Mr. D. Stone
Office: Room 2210
Hours: 2:25-3:25 (by appointment)

Classroom Room 2210

MATERIALS:

I. Textbook: Campbell Biology 9th Ed., Reese (PEARSON)

II. Lab Fee: **$6.00** This fee covers the cost of chemicals, specimens, and other materials used for laboratory experiments during the year. You will be given advance notice of the exact date of collection.

GRADES:

As mentioned in your class procedures, the overall grade you receive in this course per nine week grading period will be based on tests (40%),quizzes (35%),laboratories (10-15%); homework, and participation (10-15%)%)[Please be advised that these percentages are approximations and not absolutes.].The grading scale that will be used is as follows:

%	Grade	GPA
90 - 100	A	3.50 - 4.00
80 - 89	B	2.50 - 3.49
70 - 79	C	1.50 - 2.49
60 - 69	D	1.00 - 1.49
0 - 59	F	0.00 - 0.99

(Cont.)

ATTENDANCE:

It is important that you are aware of school policies toward attendance that can affect your grade in this class such as:

1. All unexcused absences will receive an F for each day of absence.

2. 10 or more unexcused absences for the entire year will cause you to lose credit for this course.

PHILOSOPHY AND GOALS:

This biology course has four basic goals:

1. That you learn the facts, theories, and principles of college level biology.

2. That you understand the basic biological concepts underlying the facts, theories, and principles.

3. That you develop critical-thinking and problem solving skills, not only to use in biology, but to use in your everyday life.

4. The **major emphasis and goal of this course** is to prepare you to successfully pass the AP Biology exam in May so that you are eligible to receive college credit for Biology I.

COURSE CONTENT:

The content and sequencing of this course will closely match the content of your textbook and will be utilized to guide you toward passing the AP Biology exam you will take in May of this school year. To get an idea of the general content of this course please refer to the contents section at the beginning of your textbook.

The course is based on **four Big Ideas**, which encompass core scientific principles, theories, and processes that cut across

traditional boundaries and provide a broad way of thinking about living organisms and biological systems.

Big Idea 1- The process of evolution both drives and explains 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, receive, and transmit, and respond to information essential to life processes.

Big Idea 4- Biological systems interact , and these systems and their interactions possess complex properties.

AP Biology Exam Structure

Exam duration: 3 hours
Exam administration: May of current school year.

Assessment Overview:
Exam questions are based on learning objectives, which combine science practices with specific content.

- Solve problems mathematically-including symbolically
- Design and describe experiments and analyze data and sources of error
- Explain, reason, or justify answers with emphasis on deeper, conceptual understanding.
- Interpret and develop conceptual models

Due to the increased emphasis on quantitative skills and application of mathematical methods in the questions, students are allowed to use simple four-function calculators (with square root) on the entire exam. Students will also receive a formula list as part of their testing materials.

Format of Assessment

Section I: Multiple Choice/69 questions/90 minutes/50% of Exam Score

Multiple Choice: 63 questions

- Discrete Questions
- Questions in sets

Grid –In: 6 questions

- Discrete Questions

Questions integrating biology and mathematical skills

Section II: Free Response/8 questions/90 minutes/50% of Exam Score

- Long Free Response (2 questions, one of which is lab or data- based)
- Short Free Response (6 questions, each requiring a paragraph length argument/response)

AP Scoring

Score	Recommendation
5	Extremely well qualified
4	Well qualified
3	Qualified
2	Possibly qualified
1	No recommendation