AP Biology

Julie Wawrzynek

Topics

The Big Ideas are woven into the treatment of the course material at appropriate points all year. They will form a conceptual underpinning that will unify major topics and help course participants to step back and look at the big picture.

The four Big Ideas are:

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.

Grading

- **Tests and quizzes- 40%**
  - **Unit exams**
  - **Chapter quizzes**
- **Laboratory- 40%**
  - **Participation**
  - **Pre-lab assignments**
  - **Formal lab reports**
  - **Lab posters**
- **Homework Assignments/Class Participation- 20%**
  - **Textbook reading**
  - **Weekly guided notes (question sets)**

AP Biology Examination

The exam is 3 hours long and has two sections — multiple choice and free-response.

Section I: Multiple Choice | 60 Questions | 1 hour and 30 minutes | 50% of Final Exam Score

Section II: Free-Response | 6 Questions | 1 hour and 30 minutes | 50% of Final Exam Score
- 2 long free response questions (1 is laboratory based)
- 4 short answer questions

Summer Assignment

4 assignments

Due dates will be spread out throughout the summer

All assignment count in the first quarter

Failure to complete the assignments will result in you being dropped from the course

Students must contact the instructor if they anticipate difficulty in completing the summer assignments

Materials

All written material this year will be digital whenever possible. It is up to you how you choose to organize your files. I recommend OneNote or folders in Google Drive.

- Composition notebook for lab work (pre-lab write-ups and data collection)

- Textbook- Life: The Science of Biology by Campbell et al. (provided by WAJ)

- Excel or Google Sheets and Word or Google Docs (Sorry- no Microsoft programs! They are not compatible with school software)

- Internet access