

## **Advanced Placement Biology Course Description 2010 - 2011**

### **Mr. Kodros**

This is a college biology course taught in high school. At the end of the year, the students are given a standardized exam that will determine their eligibility for advanced placement and/or credit in college biology courses. The course covers a vast amount of material and thus makes heavy demands on even the best-organized student. In addition to a thorough reading of a college biology textbook, the students will read scientific articles, and perform the recommended AP laboratories. It will be the expectation that all students enrolled in Advanced Placement Biology will take the Advanced Placement Examination. Students who are not prepared for a rigorous course should not plan on taking Advanced Placement Biology.

#### **Office Hours/Communication**

Most lunch periods or by appointment. Email is the preferred method of communication outside the school day. Use either [gtkodros@smuhdsd.org](mailto:gtkodros@smuhdsd.org) or schoolloop email.

#### **Class Behavior**

Safety and respect are the key words. Disruptions to the learning environment are not tolerated. I follow the BHS disciplinary procedure.

#### **Tardies/Unexcused Absences:**

Every day of class is crucial to your understanding of AP Biology. Be in class on time and prepared to learn when the bell rings. I will follow the BHS policy for tardies and unexcused absences. Do not expect to make up points that are missed because of tardies or unexcused absences.

#### **Honesty/Integrity:**

"Cheating" has a broad definition in our class and is not tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to) copying someone else's work, looking at another student's test/quiz, or allowing a student to copy your work. "Working together" should never produce two papers that are identical word-for-word. Zero points are given for any work that is not your own (includes homework & lab reports). Zero points will also be given to the source of the copied material. In addition the Dean will be contacted to log the offense on your school record.

#### **Organization/Materials:**

It is to your benefit to maintain an organized binder with work (notes, worksheets, vocab, etc.) organized by chapter or unit of study. The text is *Biology*, 8<sup>th</sup> AP<sub>edition</sub> by Campbell & Reece. It is also recommended that you purchase the test preparation guide *Cliffs AP Biology*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition by Phillip Pack. You are also required to have a lab notebook (composition style, non spiral bound, containing graph paper).

#### **Homework:**

You can expect homework on a regular basis. Homework usually involves reading, note taking, pre-lab setup, lab completion, or other work to support or practice your learning of the material studied.

#### **Lab Activities:**

Labs are rigorous and at times require extended periods of time to complete. Students will be required to extend lab time beyond the class period. This may include lunch and/or before/after school. If class is taught first period some lab days may require a 7:30 start. Students are required to purchase a lab notebook.

#### **Exams/Quizzes/Essays:**

Exams are given approximately once every two weeks and cover a unit's worth of material. Quizzes are given often and focus on recent material (usually open note to encourage good note taking). Essay's are done with most units and are done in class, or at home, and are often peer graded.

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### **Grading Policy:**

Your grades are computed from points earned throughout the semester. First and second semester grades are independent on one another.

Points are awarded for the following:

- |                   |                                     |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Homework       | 3 - 10 pts/assignment               |
| 2. Quizzes/Essays | 5 - 30 pts                          |
| 3. Unit Exams     | 80 - 150 pts/exam                   |
| 4. Labs           | 25 pts/lab                          |
| 5. Projects       | variable points                     |
| 6. Final Exam     | approximately 20% of semester grade |

Grading Scale:

A ≥ 90%, B ≥ 80%, C ≥ 65% D ≥ 50%, F < 50%

### **Class Web Resources:**

All sites available through the BHS website. BHS website>Science>Kodros

On this page there is a link to the AP Biology website and the AP Biology course calendar

### **Additional requirements:**

Sign a *course & safety contract*. Download from web site. Also the science department asks for a \$15 lab donation fee.

### **Course Information:**

Please read the AP Biology course syllabus for a topic outline and detailed account of units covered.