

# AP Biology

*Framingham High School*

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## Course Guidelines 2013-2014

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Instructor voicemail:	27627 (this is rarely checked; it is best to use email)
Office hours:	After school Monday - Friday in room A213
Textbook:	<i>Biology</i> , 7 <sup>th</sup> Edition by Campbell and Reece (ISBN-13: 9780805371468)
Course website:	<a href="http://www.langdonbiology.org/AP">www.langdonbiology.org/AP</a>

This is a College Board authorized Advanced Placement course.

Welcome to Advancement Placement Biology. This is one of the most exciting and difficult courses you will take in your high school career.

AP Biology is an intense and comprehensive survey course that follows a strict outline and schedule. You will be using a challenging college text. You will be testing yourself against college-level material and requirements. In short: **This is a college course!** Treat it as one from the very first day. At the end of the course, you have the option of taking the AP exam. I expect every student in the class to sit for the exam, and to do well on it. If you score high enough, you may be excused from first-year biology courses when you enter college or university. This opens up many opportunities during your college years—like graduating early, double majoring, or being able to enroll in more elective or upper-level courses—and is an option not to be taken lightly.

As a survey course, AP Biology covers a broad range of topics drawn from many different biological sub-specialties. The lecture portion of the course is divided into three main sections: how cells function at a molecular level, how cells interact to form complex organisms, and how complex organisms interact with each other and their surroundings. Although you will be responsible for remembering more “facts” than in freshman biology, the goal of the lecture course is for you to learn the overarching principles of biology rather than memorizing the small details.

The lab portion of the course is designed to fulfill three goals: to reinforce important concepts from the lecture course, to learn important lab skills for use in your college classes, and to learn to correctly analyze and present data.

### Grading:

Course exams will cover material from weeks of lectures and multiple chapters from the textbook. You will be responsible for material in the text not covered in lecture. The multiple-choice questions will be difficult: they are modeled after the real exam. The essays will be actual AP test essays, and are graded using the same rubric used to score the AP exam.

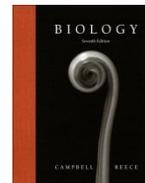
You will be graded after each laboratory experiment by either taking a lab quiz, submitting your procedure and results for grading, or by preparing a formal lab report. Lab grades are weighted based on the degree of difficulty, with full lab reports weighted as heavily as a test grade.

Take home essays will be similar to the exam essays. They will be actual AP biology test questions, and scored using the official scoring rubric. Occasionally, you will take in-class timed essays: either 20 minutes for a full-length essay, or about five minutes for the smaller questions.

Notice that there is no discussion of homework. There are about three graded problem sets for the course, mainly in the areas of genetics and evolution. However, understand you will be spending substantial time out of class reading the text and studying your notes.

## Required materials:

- Textbook: *Biology*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition by Campbell, Reece and Mitchell. (ISBN-13: 9780805371468, about \$150)  
FHS will provide you with a book. Some students purchase their own books so they can highlight and write in them, and use them as a reference for the studies in college. If you decide to buy the book, purchase the latest edition even if it is not the one used in class.
- Notebook, any style.  
This is a lecture driven course, so thorough notes are essential.
- Lab Notebook, provided by the teacher



## Recommended materials:

- An AP Biology review book

I recommend picking up a good AP Biology review book at the start of the course. Review books summarize the material we cover in just a few pages, making reviewing for tests much easier. They also include AP style test questions, allowing you to acclimate to this testing style. I recommend *Cliffs AP AP Biology* by Phillip E. Pack (ISBN-13: 9780470097649, about \$15). It contains a lab review section, and former students praised this particular review book very highly. I have a few you can borrow if you cannot get your own.

- Study Guide accompanying text: *Biology - Student Study Guide for the 7<sup>th</sup> edition*, by Martha R. Taylor, (ISBN-13: 9780805371550, about \$50)

Some students have found that using the Study Guide written for Campbell's textbook to be helpful. I have a very small number of these to lend out; however, you will get the most out of this book by buying your own so that you can write in it.

