

# AP BIOLOGY

**Teacher: Mr. Foley**  
**Email: foleyc@issaquah.wednet.edu**  
**Phone: (425) 837-6000 x6192**

"What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."

-Jane Goodall

## CLASS OBJECTIVE

To prepare students for the AP biology exam in May ... **AND** ... to build upon the concepts of evolution, cellular processes, energy transfer, genetics, information transfer, ecology and interactions taught in a first-year biology course. The course encompasses core scientific principles, theories, and processes that cut across four Big Ideas: the process of evolution to explain the diversity and unity of life; biological systems' use of free energy for a variety of life processes; the storage, retrieval, and transmission of information essential to life processes; and, the interaction of complex biological systems.

In order to be successful in this class, you must: be attentive, come to class prepared, complete assigned readings, study effectively and consistently, and work with your classmates to assist each other and build understanding.

## PRIME EXPECTATION

I expect that all of you will treat each other, your classroom, your lab, and your teacher with respect. I will not tolerate any derogatory remarks about anyone. This can include insulting or crude comments due to someone's sex, race, skin color, religion, sexual orientation or gender identity, physical appearance (height, weight, etc.), economic status, disability, dress/clothing, or speech (the way someone talks). Breaking this rule will result in disciplinary action including, but not limited to, detention.

## OTHER RULES

1. No eating in class. Drinks are acceptable **ONLY** when not in the lab. (This rule is subject to modification if waste is not properly disposed of)
  2. No chewing gum in class
  3. Raise your hand to speak in class, and no talking when others are talking
  4. Electronic devices are **ONLY** allowed, *with prior approval*, for education purposes only (if your device is used for any purpose I deem non-educational, it may be confiscated – **DO NOT ABUSE THIS PRIVILEGE**)
- ✓ Violation of any of these rules may result in disciplinary action including, but not limited to, detention

## GRADING

All assignments, labs, quizzes, and tests are assigned point values and are weighted in your grade as indicated below.

Tests	65%	Semester Final	10%
Labs & Projects	25%		

Graded homework will not be assigned on a nightly basis, but in order to stay on track with the material, reading and studying should be a common part of your nightly schoolwork. Please note that the vast majority of your grade will be dictated by your performance on tests, quizzes and labs. This is in order to better prepare you for the forthcoming AP exam. Quizzes will occur on both an announced and unannounced basis.

The scale for grades is as follows:

A	90.00% and up
B	89.99 – 80.00%
C	79.99 – 65.00%
D	64.99 – 40.00%
F	39.99% and below

**NOTE!** Like the AP exam, which is scored on a 1-5 scale **without** plusses and minuses, there are no plusses or minuses on letter grades.

The overall grades in this class are not "curved." In addition, if you happen to have a boarder-line percentage, *your grade will NOT be rounded*. For example, an 89.99% would be a B, whereas a 90.00% would be an A. Please, save yourself the time by not asking me later if I will give you an A if your grade is an 89.99%. In order to be consistently fair to all students, I will not entertain any requests or pleas for special treatment.

**Tests:** Scheduled, announced tests will occur periodically to assess your acquired knowledge and understanding on concepts. The tests are *very challenging* and will closely approximate the type and difficulty of questions that will be encountered on the AP exam. Be aware that unit tests are cumulative and a portion of the questions will be based on previous units. The tests are precisely timed and extensions are not permitted! Although there is *no re-take option* for students who are unsatisfied with their test scores, student performance, *across all periods of AP biology*, will be used to determine what each test is scored out of.

★ **NOTE:** If you are absent and miss a test, you will be given an alternate, make-up version of the test.

**Labs:** These in-class investigations make up a significant percentage of your grade, so it is imperative that you are present and you participate fully with your classmates. If you are absent and miss a lab, you will miss out on the opportunity to have a better understanding of the topic. After all, science is a hands-on subject, and therefore best learned when you're present.

**Semester Final Exam:** At the end of first semester, there will be a multiple-choice exam that will include all material for that semester. As with the individual unit tests, student performance, *across all periods of AP biology*, will be used to determine what the final is scored out of. If your score on the **first semester final exam** is greater than your test score average for the semester, the difference – up to 10% – will be added to your **first semester grade**.

The second semester final will occupy most of the time after AP exams have finished and will consist of a number of small, student-selected projects from a provided list with varying point values.

**Quizzes:** There will be announced and unannounced (pop) quizzes throughout each unit to help you identify your current level of understanding. Your performance on quizzes will be recorded in Skyward, but they **will not have any direct effect on your grade**.

**Homework/Class Work:** Homework will be assigned, on average, once or twice per unit of instruction. The purpose of homework is to serve as a critical part of the learning and memorization process, not as a point-builder for your grade. To that end, although your homework completion will be recorded in Skyward, it **will not have a direct effect on your grade**.

★ **IMPORTANT!** All students are expected to take the AP exam. If your family's economic situation would make it difficult for you to sit for the AP exam, see me. There is NO REASON not to sit for the exam. A student's grades, for both semesters, are subject to a grade bump. The increase will be based on the following: the semester grade, the grade equivalent (according to the College Board), and the score earned on the AP exam. No other factors will be considered to determine a student's semester grades.

## STUDENT WORK

All of the graded work that you produce will be submitted via turnitin.com. Work will therefore need to be typed in either MLA or APA format. Students without access to a computer at home can use the computers in the classroom or the school library. Your work will be evaluated based on rubrics that are posted on the class website. Be sure to use them as a guide to make sure your work is complete and done well. Due dates will be clearly identified on the class website and, unless otherwise specified in advance, the due time will 9pm – **sharp**. Any work submitted after the due date and time will be considered late. (See: "Late Work" below)

Ungraded work, such as homework, will also have due dates specified and listed on the class website's calendar. Although such work will not have an impact on your grade, its completeness will be recorded in Skyward on a scale of 0 to 3 (where 3 is 100% complete and 0 is missing).

Only assignments with mathematical errors in grading or entry errors in Skyward are eligible to be re-evaluated. Any such re-grading must be done before the **date of the next unit test**. I will not, *under any circumstances*, accept any assignments for re-grading after the end of the school day on the date of the next unit test. Additionally, scores earned on work are not subject to debate or haggling.

## ABSENCES, TARDIES & HALL PASSES

If you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to determine what you missed by checking the class website (especially the calendar), and checking with a responsible classmate. The following table should help you to determine your responsibilities for excused absences. ★ **IMPORTANT!** Follow the instructions below **before** asking me for help.

<i>When I was absent (excused) ...</i>	<i>What should I do?</i>
an assignment was due.	On the day you return, write "ABSENT" and the date of your absence at the top of your paper. Turn in your work to me <i>at an appropriate time</i> .
an assignment was assigned.	Check a classmate's science notebook and update your own. If a handout was provided, go to the handout file and obtain one for yourself. Handouts are also on the class website and can be printed on your own printer. You will have as many days as you were absent to complete the work, after which the "Late Work" policy will apply.
a lecture took place.	You should review the PowerPoint on the class website and make notes in your science notebook. Also, check with a classmate to compare your notes to theirs and fill in any missing information. THEN, see me if you need extra help.
class work was completed.	Check a classmate's science notebook and update your own. If a handout was provided, go to the handout file (or print it from the website on your own printer) and obtain one for yourself. If a textbook assignment was completed, check the calendar on the class website for details. You will have as many days as you were absent to complete the work, after which the "Late Work" policy will apply.
the class watched a video.	Check with a classmate to obtain any important information. Some videos may also be found on the class website. (You have missed the video!)
a quiz or test took place.	You will have as many days as you were absent to make up the quiz or test. Be aware: if you were only absent on the day of the test or quiz, you will be required to make it up on the day of your return. It is YOUR responsibility to come to me to schedule a make-up date.
a lab or other group work was done.	If the lab activity is still available, you'll be expected to arrange a time to complete the activity on your own time after school. If it's not available, you'll need to complete a written, replacement assignment in lieu of the hands-on activity.
a reading was assigned.	Check the reading assignment log on the class website. You will be responsible for any information within the reading by the same deadline.

✓ Instructions for turning in "Absent" work:

Write "ABSENT" and the date of your absence at the top of your paper and submit it to me *at an appropriate time*. If you fail to do this, *your work will be considered late!*

**Tardies:** You are expected to be in class, seated, and ready to work by the time the bell rings. If you miss an in-class assignment, quiz or test (or portion thereof) due to an unexcused tardy, you will not be permitted extra time to complete the assignment. Also, if an assignment is due on a day that you have an unexcused tardy, your work is also late. (SEE: "Late Work" below)

**Hall Passes:** Since you're in high school, I expect that you have learned what an appropriate time to use the bathroom is. As well, you should know by now how to come to class prepared. But, if you really must leave class, you must turn over your cell phone during that time. Hall passes will not be granted during the first or last 10 minutes of the period, or while you're still taking a test.

## LATE WORK

In order for the graded work you produce to be the most useful for you as a learning tool, you must turn in work on the date it is due. However, you may turn in work, without penalty, by the end of the unit (the class period of the unit assessment). Beyond that, late work **will not be accepted** under any circumstances.

Also, since students are given ample time to complete graded work, excuses such as, "My printer ran out of ink," or, "My internet was down," or, "I had practice last night," will not be accepted. Grading late work is always a low priority and will only be scored after all other on-time work, perhaps not until the end of the semester. Keep this in mind if you plan on submitting late work.

## EXTRA CREDIT

Extra credit is not available.

## ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

I will strictly follow the school's policy and district guidelines as it relates to academic dishonesty. I will pursue all incidents of academic dishonesty with swift vigor.

Cheating on tests and quizzes is a clear example of academic dishonesty. However, you should also be aware that copying another student's homework or any other assignment is also a violation. Please keep your work to yourself – don't believe that you're "helping" a classmate by allowing them to see (or copy) your work. All students involved in academic dishonesty, those cheating and those *allowing* cheating, will suffer the same penalties.

## CLASS WEBSITE & CONTACT INFORMATION

You can access information about this class on the web at:

<https://www.ihsfoley.com>

On that website, you will find up-to-date assignment lists, PowerPoint lectures, homework, and links to useful websites. Please share this website with your parent(s)/guardian(s).

Although email is my preferred method of contact (see the top of this document), you can also reach me at (425) 837-6000, x6192. However, I will not be able to answer the phone during school hours as it would interrupt class time.

(please tear at the perforation & return ONLY the portion below)

## AP BIOLOGY PARENT/GUARDIAN/STUDENT AGREEMENT (2019-20)

I/We have read and understand this AP biology course information document in its entirety. I/We have paid special attention to the way in which the grading system in this class will be implemented and comprehend it fully. I/We know how to contact the teacher and/or where to find information about the class. I/We am also aware of what is expected of my student in class and what the rules and procedures are as well as the consequences for failure to adhere to those rules and procedures.

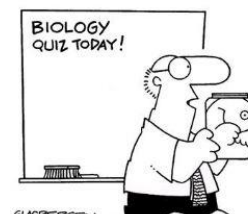
I/We understand, this document acts as a contract for the class and that parents, students and the teacher will and must adhere to it. I/We understand that there are **never** any exceptions to the rules and policies included in this document.

As well, I/we realize that AP biology is not meant to be an easy class as the material to be covered is primarily at the collegiate level. I/We are prepared for the fact that students **will** experience a drop in grade (approximately 10%) as compared to a non-AP class. As in a college class, a copious amount of in-class note-taking and independent studying will be required to achieve a satisfactory grade. To that end, I/we understand that my student will be continuously challenged to expand his/her knowledge, **and the pursuit of that knowledge, rather than that of a letter grade**, is of paramount importance.

**TO PARENT/GUARDIAN:** My role as a parent/guardian is that of an encouraging supporter. I will not be a source of disparagement; rather, I will seek to boost my child's self esteem by providing **positive** reinforcement. I realize that a discouraged student has a more difficult time in school (and life) and that it is my role, **not to fixate** on past disappointments, but to focus on future improvement. I'm also aware that **I cannot make generalizations** about what is a "good grade" or a "bad grade" in the class as generalizations like those are rarely substantiated.



The school's new hall passes proved to be extremely effective in discouraging frivolous trips to the rest room.



ISSAQUAH HIGH

(student name - printed)

(student signature)

(parent/guardian signature)

(date)

