AP Biology
Overview, Expectations and Best Practices
Mira Costa High School
Taking an AP Class

- Taking an AP class gives college-level rigor. That’s great...
- It is good to present yourself with APPROPRIATE challenges.
- It is *equally important* to be well-rounded—socially and emotionally.
  - Colleges think so to!
What AP class should I take?

- Take an AP class in a subject that interests you—in something you may want to pursue.
- Be sensible in balancing rigorous coursework with co-curricular activities and other demands on your time.
How can I plan for an ideal balance of academics, activities, and LIFE?

- Before you make your course selections for enrollment, complete a Time Management Activity Grid.
  - Find this at miracostahigh.org > Guidance > Student Resources
AP Biology
Course Overview

- AP Biology is a second year biology course that is designed to be the equivalent of the general biology course usually taken during the first year of college.
- The course is focused on preparing students to take the AP Biology Exam in May.
- Emphasis is placed on college-level laboratory experience, student collaboration, problem-solving techniques and test taking strategies.
AP Biology Course Overview

- Unit 0: Lab Fundamentals, Animal Behavior
- Unit 1: Chemistry, Water, and Macromolecules
- Unit 2: Cellular Processes
- Unit 3: Enzyme, Photosynthesis, Cellular Respiration
- Unit 4: Mitosis, Meiosis
- Unit 5: Genetics, Biotechnology
- Unit 6: Protein Synthesis, Gene Expression
- Unit 7: Evolution
- Unit 8: Ecology
- Unit 9: Nervous System
- Unit 11: Immune System
- Unit 12: Body Systems - Circulatory, Respiratory, Digestive, Exocrine, Endocrine, Reproductive
AP Biology Course Laboratories

1. Animal Behavior Lab
2. Molecule Building Lab
3. Diffusion/Osmosis Lab
4. Enzyme Catalase Lab
5. Cellular Respiration Lab
6. Photosynthesis Lab
7. Bacterial Transformation Lab
8. Gel Electrophoresis Lab
9. *Drosophila* Genetics Lab
10. BLAST Lab
11. Transpiration Lab
12. Energy Dynamics Lab
13. *Daphnia* Lab
14. Fetal Pig Dissection
AP Biology
Pre-Requisites

- Honors Chemistry with a grade of C- or better (or CP Chemistry with a grade of B- or better)
- Biology with a grade of B- or better
- Algebra 2 with a grade of B- or better
AP Biology
Let’s Be Real: Workload

- Students should expect reading/homework each night for an average of 4 hours/week
- This is a LABORATORY-BASED course. There are 13 college-level labs (1-3 class periods each) that students will complete throughout the school year
- Students will be responsible for learning much of the material independently using the textbook and online resources. A significant portion of class time is spent discussing how the material applies to the lab experience.
AP Biology
Grade Composition and Weighting

- Tests and Quizzes = 40%
- Classwork and Homework = 20%
- Laboratory Reports = 20%
- Final = 20%

- Quizzes missed due to excused absences must be taken in advance. Tests missed will be made up with a quarter exam.
- Late homework will not be accepted
- Laboratory Reports turned in after the due date are credited with 50% of the earned score
AP Biology
Best Practices for Success

- Don’t miss class.
- Stay current with assigned homework and reading assignments.
- Ask for help when you need it.
- Form a study group with other students.
- Purchase an AP Biology test prep book for extra practice problems.
- Maintain a positive attitude.
Mira Costa Pass Rate 2018 = 90%
National Pass Rate 2018 = 62%
AP Biology
Additional Information

Instructor Contact Info
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College Board AP Biology Home Page