

PreAP BIOLOGY
Fall 2019
Michael E. DeBakey High School for Health Professions

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Welcome to PreAP Biology!

Please review all of the information in the syllabus. Each student and their parent or guardian must read and acknowledge the information contained within.

Course Description:

Biology is the study of the structure, growth, and function of life and living systems. This course will encompass historical contributions to biological concepts; energy production, transfer, and use in living systems; and the interrelatedness of organisms with each other and with environments. Below are the requirements and expectations for this course.

PreAP Biology Syllabus Fall Semester

Textbook: online edition Texas Miller and Levine Biology Student eText

Unit 1: The Nature of Science

Chapter 1: The Science of Biology
Chapter 2: The Chemistry of Life

Unit 2: Energy Flow/ Ecology

Chapter 3: The Biosphere
Chapter 4: Ecosystems & Communities
Chapter 5: Populations
Chapter 6: Humans in the Biosphere

Unit 3: Cells

Chapter 7: Cell structure and Function
Chapter 8: Photosynthesis
Chapter 9: Cellular Respiration & Fermentation
Chapter 10: Cell Growth and Division

Unit 4: Genetics

Chapter 11: Introduction to Genetics
Chapter 12: DNA
Chapter 13: RNA and Protein Synthesis
Chapter 14: The Human Heredity
Chapter 15: Genetic Engineering

Note: This syllabus may change due to unforeseen circumstances.

Exams, quizzes, and assignments will not be released, but students are welcome to review their answers.

Grading Policy:

Tests / Projects	60%
Quizzes/ Labs /Activities	30%
Daily Work	10%

Student Expectations:

- 1.Student is responsible for reading the chapter and completing homework prior to class.**
- 2.Student will be assessed via pop-quizzes which will include the chapter to cover that day as well as all previous chapters. These quizzes typically assess reading comprehension and use of vocabulary.**
- 3.Student is responsible for all vocabulary terms in assigned chapters as well as previous chapters.**
- 4.Homework\Assignments are due at the beginning of class (No excuses), unless otherwise instructed.**
- 5.Students should study for the course a little every night. Students should not feel the need to study an excessive amount the night before a test.**

Penalties for choosing to break a rule:

First Offense:	S in conduct and possible detention
Second Offense:	P in conduct and personal conference with the teacher.
Third Offense:	Referral to the principal.

Classroom Rules:

1. Be Polite
Always treat others with respect and do not diminish the contributions of others
2. Be Productive
Show up to class on time and ready to work, use the time given to create meaningful work, don't waste limited classroom time, accomplish what is needed outside of class, and only leave class when you need to
3. Be Positive
Do not diminish your worth and learn from failure
4. Be Principled
Be honest and moral, follow the code of conduct, and follow classroom and school procedures

Video recording, audio recording, and photography of any kind is prohibited in the classroom.

Cell phone use is prohibited during tests, quizzes, and other assessments.

Cell phone use is sometimes allowed during classroom activities.

Supplies:

2 composition notebooks, 9.75 x 7.5, 100 pages, no dividers
Blue, black, red pens, Pencil, 1 box colored pencils
Ruler, Glue stick, Scissors, Scotch tape
Index cards (3"x5")
Other supplies may be required for class projects (TBA).

Homework:

Students may be assigned a variety of homework assignments including: videos, virtual labs, and cornell notes. Failure to complete homework typically causes poor performance on quizzes and other assessments.

Students may not copy any portion of a homework assignment from another student. Students observed copying homework will receive a "0%" as will the student having their worked copied. All instances of academic dishonesty must be reported to the appropriate assistant principal.

Lectures:

Direct teacher led lectures will typically be short and infrequent. Direct teacher instruction is not the most effective manner to deliver instruction. Lecture time will be more about reviewing information from student reading and discussion of topics that need further attention.

Quizzes:

In class quizzes may not be preceded by direct teacher instruction. Most quizzes will assess comprehension of assigned homework. The results of these quizzes will allow the instructor to focus on areas of most need.

Labs:

This science course will focus heavily on lab based instruction. Labs will typically be inquiry based, requiring the student to design an experiment to answer a particular question. Participation in lab activities is a privilege not a right. Above all else, safety comes first. Therefore, for the safety of everyone, each student is required to read and/or write up the procedures of the lab assignment BEFORE performing the lab. If a student does not complete the pre-lab assignment, then the student cannot participate in that lab activity. The teacher will provide data to that student so a written lab report can still be completed. However, the maximum grade for the lab report will be a "70%". All labs must be performed properly and safely.

If a student is removed from the laboratory for misbehavior, that student will receive an automatic “0%” for the lab grade. In both instances, the teacher will give an alternate in-class assignment to the student during the lab activity. Students will not leave the lab until all supplies are cleaned and returned to their original place. Students are encouraged to practice effective time management and begin cleaning up approximately 10 minutes before the class period is over. If missed due to absence or incomplete prelab, some (not all) labs may be made up during afterschool tutorials by prior arrangement with me. Due to the nature of many labs, an alternative lab assignment may be necessary in some cases if a lab is missed.

Students may not copy any portion of a lab from any source or student. Students observed copying lab information will receive a “0%” as will the student having their worked copied. All instances of academic dishonesty must be reported to the appropriate assistant principal.

Tests:

Students will always be given adequate notice that a test will take place. Tests may assess any material covered up until the day of the test. Due to the nature of this course, it is often necessary to include previous information on tests in addition to the most recently covered material. Tests will typically have two sections: Multiple choice and free response. Students should manage their time during this course to prevent the need for excessive study the night before a test.

All instances of academic dishonesty must be reported to the appropriate assistant principal.

Projects

Projects will be assigned approximately one per cycle (3 per semester). These may include presentation of the project to the class as part of the grade. A project grade is a major grade and is equivalent to a test grade. Most project work will be done outside of the class period. Projects are subject to the late policy: Late work will be accepted one class late for a maximum grade of 70% of the original possible points. The written or turned in part of a project may be due before the scheduled presentation (if applicable).

Projects are subject to the DeBakey academic dishonesty policy and instances of cheating will be reported to the appropriate assistant principal.

Absences:

If you are absent for any reason, you will have three days to make up the work at which time it will become a zero if not turned in. Missed labs will require makeup during tutorial time. Makeup tests will be arranged with the instructor. Projects cannot be turned in late. Due to frequent dishonestly, projects must be turned in the day they are due. If a student is absent, arrangements should be made to have the project brought to the school.

Assignments Titles:

Label all assignments in the upper left-hand corner as indicated: First name Last name, Period, Date
Electronic submissions should have the format: Last name_First name _class period_title

Academic Dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty takes many forms and can sometimes be confusing for students and parents. Some forms of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to: Plagiarism, falsification of data, providing false information to an instructor including excuses for late work or falsely claiming to have submitted work, any form of cheating in which a student has an unfair advantage on an assessment by using notes or other materials not allowed by the instructor, providing unauthorized assistance or information to others on homework, projects, tests, quizzes, etc., intentionally preventing other students from completing their work, impersonating another student to give them unauthorized assistance. This is not a comprehensive list and teacher and administrator discretion will ultimately decide whether a student has committed an offense.

There are many reasons students choose to engage in academic dishonesty. When students have an unfair advantage over other students, this presents a situation in which students who are doing everything right are punished for not cheating when they receive lower scores than those who did cheat. The instructor will constantly try to prevent academic dishonesty so that all students can excel academically and for the instructor to know where additional assistance is needed. All instances of academic dishonesty must be reported to the appropriate assistant principal.

Retakes

If the student fails a test or project, then the student has an opportunity to retake a similar assessment covering the same topics or redo the project. All retakes will take place outside of regular class time. Once complete, the student's retake / redo grade will be averaged with the original grade for a final assessment / assignment grade of no higher than "70%".

Please note: There are no retakes for end of cycle exams or quizzes/labs/activities.

Late Work

Projects, lab reports, and homework may be turned in **ONE class day** late at the beginning of the period and will receive a maximum score of **70%**. No late work will be accepted beyond that time and the assignment will be marked as a zero.

Start of class/ Tardy:

Class begins when the tardy bell rings. All students should be seated and working at that time. Students may not enter the class after the bell without an office pass.

Leaving the classroom:

Student may use the restroom during class, but **not during a quiz or a test**. If you need to leave, complete the hall pass sign-out by the door with your full name, destination, and departure time. You do not need to directly ask for permission to leave. Upon your return, enter the time in and sit down quietly. Only one student will be allowed to leave the room at one time. If the student is gone for an excessive amount of time, fails to sign out, or goes to a different location than indicated, they will lose the hall pass privilege for the remainder of the cycle. This policy may change depending on classroom behavior and abuse of the privilege. No student may leave the class during the first 10 or last 10 minutes of class. Please try to take care of personal business between classes.

Fire Alarm / Fire Drill:

One student will be designated as "leader" and will lead the class to the appropriate location outside. Role will be taken and students are expected to remain quiet during this time.

Internet/Online assignments

Routinely, assignments will be done and submitted online. Students will need to sign in to their own account (to be shown in class.) Deadlines are designated and individual grades are taken. Note that most assignments cannot be redone and the first submission of work is what is graded. If necessary, computers and online access is usually available before and after school and at lunch in the library.

Tutoring/Conferences

I am available for classroom tutoring either during scheduled tutorials, or by appointment. If at any time you or your parent would like to discuss your progress, please request an individual conference with me by phone (713-741-2410) or E-mail (mmaharaj@houstonisd.org) at least one day in advance. My conference period is B1 or by appointment. Students failing the class are responsible for attending tutorials.