



ADVANCED PLACEMENT BIOLOGY

INSTRUCTOR: MS. SHADDY VISTE | SHADDY_VISTE@CHINO.K12.CA.US

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Recommended COURSE MATERIALS

- College-ruled notebook
- 1-2 inch Binder with Dividers
- Pens/pencils (different colored is optional but *highly recommended*)
- Highlighters
- Scientific Calculator

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OVERVIEW

Advanced Placement (AP) Biology is the equivalent to a two-semester college introductory biology course and is designed to prepare students for the AP Biology exam. We emphasize on experiencing science as an exploratory process, development of critical thinking skills, and integration of biological knowledge and scientific practices through inquiry, investigation, collaboration, and hands-on activities.

The course is structured with eight Units and around four Big Ideas as outlined by the College Board AP Biology Course and Exam Description. Together, the Big Ideas encompass scientific principles, theories, and processes governing living organisms and biological systems.

Units:

- Unit 1: Chemistry of Life
- Unit 2: Cell Structure and Function
- Unit 3: Cellular Energetics
- Unit 4: Cell Communication and Cell Cycle
- Unit 5: Heredity
- Unit 6: Gene Expression and Regulation
- Unit 7: Natural Selection
- Unit 8: Ecology

Big Ideas:

- **Big Idea 1: EVOLUTION** The process of evolution drives the diversity and unity of life.
- **BIG IDEA 2: ENERGETICS** Biological systems utilize free energy and molecular building blocks to grow, to reproduce, and to maintain dynamic homeostasis.
- **BIG IDEA 3: INFORMATION STORAGE AND TRANSMISSION** Living systems store, retrieve, transmit and respond to information essential to life processes.
- **BIG IDEA 4: SYSTEMS INTERACTIONS** Biological systems interact, and these systems and their interactions possess complex properties.

COURSE POLICIES

Classroom Foundations (Behaviors and Expectations)

- Collaborative
- COMMUNICATION - This classroom emphasizes communication between instructors and students. If you have concerns, confusions, need help/extra time for emergencies, tell me.
- Four Bees:
 1. **Be Safe** – Be present physically and mentally, and actively participate. Use of electronic devices is explicitly prohibited unless directed by the teacher.
 2. **Be Responsible** – This does not just include completing work on time. Take agency and autonomy in *our* classroom.
 3. **Be Respectful** – Disrespect of any kind will not be tolerated. Respect yourselves and others, including classmates, instructors, guests, and materials. Respect our classroom by refraining from eating and handling materials/tools with care.
 4. **Be Safe** – Stay focused, use time wisely, and support each other.

Classroom Behavior Protocol

- A. Warning and Apology
- B. Teacher Intervention (including, but not limited to alternative assignment or seating)
- C. Administrative Intervention

Academic Integrity and Protocols

- Abide to Chino Valley Unified School District and Chino High School policies on academic integrity.
- Do not lie, cheat, plagiarize, or commit other acts of academic dishonesty.
- Complete all assignments as your own. Required papers are subjected to submission for textual similarity review for the detection of plagiarism (through Turnitin.com or similar).
- Use of Artificial Intelligence: Generative AI tools must be used ethically, responsibly, and intentionally to support student learning, not to bypass it. AI may be used as optional aids for exploration of potential topics of inquiry, initial searches for sources of information, confirming their understanding of a complex text, or checking their writing for grammar and tone. However, students must read primary and secondary sources directly, perform their own analysis and synthesis of evidence, and make their own choices on how to communicate effectively in their assignments. It remains the student's responsibility to engage deeply with credible, valid sources and integrate diverse perspectives when working on an assignment.

Violation of Academic Integrity is unacceptable and will **not be tolerated**. Students found to have committed an act of academic dishonesty shall be subject to Chino Valley Unified School District and Chino High School discipline policies.

Consequences may include, but are not limited to, the following: a zero grade on the assignment, project, assessment, or any other activity where the academic dishonesty occurred, parent notification, and disciplinary action (e.g., administrative detention, Friday Work/Study, ALC, suspension).

Late/Make-up Work (including Absences)

Any assignments turned in after a given due date are considered late. Assignments turned in after the due date but before 24 hours may be eligible to receive a **maximum of half credit**. Assignments turn in after 24 hours will not receive any credit.

Absences: During an absence, students are responsible for communicating with the teacher and obtaining the missing assignment(s) immediately upon return.

- 1 extra school day given (after return) to turn in work for any **excused** absence unless otherwise determined by the teacher.

Make-Up

- Students must schedule a time for a make-up test if needed. Note that the course is 60% assessment.
- Unit tests can be made up until 3 days after the administration of a unit test
- Credit Recovery is available for assessments.
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EVALUATION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

The course grade given to each student shall be based on student achievement in meeting the requirements specified in the California Next Generation Science Standards, College Board AP Biology curriculum framework, curriculum embedded and/or District assessments, and other relevant curriculum and instruction.

Evaluation is based on the following criteria:

- Assessments (Formative and Summative) – 60%
- Laboratory – 25%
- Classroom and Homework – 15%

Course Content		Work Habits/Effort/Behavior	
A	90 – 100%	O	Outstanding
B	80 – 89%	S	Satisfactory
C	70 – 79%	N	Needs Improvement
D	60 – 69%	U	Unsatisfactory
F	0 – 59%		

Note: Plus and minus signs may be used at the discretion of the teacher, but do not affect grade point average. As there are multiple opportunities for students to earn points, the ranges indicated above are absolute.

Grades and can be accessed online via the student and/or parent Aeries Portal

STUDENT AND PARENT AGREEMENT

Signing of this page serves as an acknowledgment that both student and parent/guardian have read, understand, and agree to the AP Biology course expectations as outlined above. In addition, the signature of this page indicates familiarization with the Biomedical Science and Technology Academy policies found in the school handbook.

Student Name (Print)

_____/____/_____
Student Signature & Date

Parent/Guardian Name

_____/____/_____
Parent/Guardian Signature & Date