



Grand Haven High School

AP Biology A / B

Course Number: D48 A / D48B

Grade Level: 11th and 12th grade

Credits : 1 credit

Prerequisite Courses : Chemistry (may be concurrent) and Biology / Honors Biology

Course Description

AP Biology is a challenging elective course, equivalent to two semesters of college Biology. It is the right choice for students who will pursue a science-based degree, or those who wish to gain college credit for an elective science class. Topics include ecology, cellular biology, biochemistry, energy transformations, heredity, molecular genetics & biotechnology, evolution, taxonomy and physiology. Laboratory work involves advanced techniques and equipment, while stressing thorough observation, record keeping and analysis. College credit can be earned by students who attain a satisfactory score on the College Board's AP Biology exam offered each May. Topics will be explored through the use of laboratory and hands-on activities, discussions, field trips, audio-visual presentations, projects and other means.

Course Objectives

The course will provide students with the conceptual framework, factual knowledge, and analytical skills necessary to deal critically with the rapidly changing science of biology. Focus is placed on an understanding of science as a process rather than an accumulation of facts, recognition of evolution as the foundation of the modern biology model, the integration of the general topics of biology through the four major themes from the AP Biology Curriculum Requirements, and application of biological knowledge and critical thinking to environmental and social concerns. The course laboratory components will constitute a minimum of 25% of instructional time. Students are encouraged to keep copies of their laboratory work for use in determining college credit or placement.

Building Behavioral Expectations

T.E.A.M. GH ... One Team, One Family, One Grand Haven. Be Kind. Always.

It is our expectation that ALL GHHS students, staff and parents will ... always give their best **EFFORT** in everything that they do, work hard to be **INCLUSIVE** of each other, show **RESPONSIBILITY** in class, the hallways, cafeteria and at events, and **WORK TOGETHER** at all times!

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Student Expectations

Students will devote a minimum of one hour daily (read, review, homework) to AP Bio. Students are required to maintain, and carry daily, a carefully-organized course binder, which may be periodically evaluated. Assignments submitted late are subject to at least a 50% score reduction. Make-up opportunities (tests, quizzes, labs) must be scheduled with the teacher. Students are to do nothing that hinders learning or teaching in the classroom.

Communication

Regular progress can be monitored using Parent Internet Viewer and Google Classroom. Instructors will be available via email and phone.

Grading Policy

60% of grade = Assessments (Written Response Tests, Multiple Choice Tests, and Quizzes)
40% of grade = Classwork (Laboratory work, Modeling, and AP Classroom Checks)

Scope and Sequence

1st Semester

- Unit 1: Animal Behavior and Ecology
- Unit 2: Chemistry of Life
- Unit 3: Cell Structure and Function
- Unit 4: Cell Energetics
- Unit 5: Cell communication and Cell Cycle

2nd Semester

- Unit 6: Heredity
- Unit 7: Gene Expression and Regulation
- Unit 8: Natural Selection
- Review and Test Preparation
- Student Selected Inquiry Investigation

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