



CHARLES ROBERT DARWIN.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

INSTRUCTOR: D. ESPOSITO

TEXT: BIOLOGY 8<sup>TH</sup> EDITION; CAMPBELL, REECE, MITCHELL

Welcome to *AP Biology*. This course will be a most challenging &, hopefully, rewarding experience. In order to maximize your achievement in this course, you should consider the following:

### I. Grading & Class Policies:

- **Exams:** are graded on a **100-point** scale. Exams are administered at the end of each unit of study & may, on occasion, cover multiple chapters. Each exam consists of the following sections:
  - **Part A:** 20-30 AP level multiple-choice questions, with 5 possible answer choices.
  - **Part B:** free response section consisting of a variety of short & long response questions, calculations, etc. All free response questions are graded according to standards supplied by the *College Board*.
- **Quizzes:** are graded on a **10-20 point** scale. Quizzes will consist of AP level multiple-choice questions & may be administered periodically throughout a unit.
- **Homework:** is graded on a **5-point** scale & may be either *hand written or typed*. With regards to homework assignments, be mindful of the following:
  - All HW assignments are **due the day after they are assigned** & must be submitted the **period you have class**.
  - Grades for late HW assignments will be **reduced by half** up to one day after the due date & will **NOT** be accepted afterwards (unless there are extenuating circumstances).
- **Labs:** lab reports are graded on a **25-point** scale. All students are required to complete 12 labs mandated by the *College Board*. With regards to laboratory work, be mindful of the following:
  - All lab reports are **due 5 school days after data is collected class**.
  - Late lab reports will incur a **5-point deduction** for every day late.
  - Reports will no longer be accepted **5 school days following the due date**.
  - Labs not requiring a formal write up are graded on a **10-15 point** scale & are **due the day after the activity is completed in class**.
- **Class Participation:** your **attention & active participation** in class is vital for maximizing your understanding of the course material & thus your potential success in this course.

- **Cell phones & other media-based devices** are to be **PUT AWAY** at the **start** of each period. These devices may only be used if permitted by the instructor.
  - Repeated violations of the aforementioned policy may result in the **confiscation of the device** for the remainder of the school day and / or a **reduction in grade**.

### II. Course Website & Class Materials:

- The course webpage can be accessed through the high school website. This page provides students & parents with the following information / materials:
  - Announcements regarding HW assignments, quizzes, lab, & exam dates.
  - Documents for uploading such as “student guides” that coincide with material presented during daily lectures.
  - Copies of all class presentations can be accessed when absent or preparing for a quiz / exam.
  - It is **YOUR responsibility to check the website daily** to obtain all necessary materials & complete all assigned work (especially when absent). Failure to do so may result in a zero (0) for any missed assignments.

### III. Absences:

- Regular attendance is vital to your success in this course. Missed exams, quizzes, or labs must be made up **immediately upon your return to school**, either during a free period OR after school during extra help sessions.
  - Failure to make up missed exams & quizzes by the **end of a marking period** will result in a zero (0).
  - Failure to make up labs within **5 school days of your return** will result in a zero.
  - Missed HW is due the **day after your return to school**.

IV. **Extra Help:** scheduled extra help sessions are conducted on \_\_\_\_\_ at 7AM in Room \_\_\_\_\_. Informally, I am usually available before school or during a student's free period as long as I am also free. Do not hesitate to arrange to see me if you are having difficulty with subject matter or to make up missed assignments.

V. **Preparedness for Class:** you must bring the following materials to class **EVERYDAY**. Repeated failure to do so will result in a reduction of your quarterly grade:

- Notebook (3-ring binder)
- Student Guide(s)
- Scientific Calculator

VI. **Lateness to Class:** you will be permitted 3 unexcused lates per quarter. Detention will be assigned for each additional lateness. Detention will be served after school on the day it is assigned. Failure to do so will carry a penalty as described in the student handbook.

VII. **Food & Drinks:** since our classroom is also a functional lab, food is **NOT** permitted in class under any circumstances. Drinks are **NOT** permitted in the laboratory portion of the classroom. Please dispose of any empty drink containers upon leaving the classroom.

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### Preparing for Quizzes & Exams

#### Study Tips & Suggestions

- In order to provide yourself with the best possible resources from which to study, it is imperative that you take good notes during class. The more detailed your notes, the more information you will be able to draw from when preparing for an assessment.
- It is strongly suggested that you read over your class notes from the day's lecture EVERY NIGHT. Doing so will help you review the day's material.
  - If in reading your notes, the material presented in class is unclear to you, read the corresponding section(s) in the textbook and/or view the online presentations.
  - If reading the textbook still doesn't clear up any misunderstandings, then you must see me for extra help ASAP.
- Be sure to come to the formal extra help sessions prior to each quiz & exam, usually held the morning of the assessment. When you attend extra help, it is suggested that you come with a list of questions that you would like to ask; this will maximize the amount of material that we can address during the extra help period.
- If you adopt the aforementioned routine & follow it consistently, you will be well prepared for your quizzes & exams. If not, you will be left to "cram" for these assessments. Given the amount of material you will be responsible for on each exam, cramming leads to very poor results more often than not.