

Science Academy Class Information

AP Biology (2006-2007)

Class Time: Mondays and Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Location: 210 Lindbergh Avenue, Broomall

Instructor: Lisa Swieson (610.355.9174, LSwieson@science-resources.org)

Textbook: *Biology: AP Edition*, by Campbell & Reece (Pearson Education, ©2005, 7th edition)

Class Web Site: www.science-resources.org/apbio0607.htm

Overview. This rigorous biology course, designed to be equivalent to two semesters of introductory biology at the college level, is appropriate for serious college-bound students, especially those planning to major in science. Students should be motivated and willing to work hard. Primary emphasis in this course will be to help students develop an understanding of concepts rather than on memorizing terms and technical details. Regular in-depth labs will give students hands-on opportunities to apply concepts learned. All 12 labs recommended by the College Board will be conducted, and all students will take the AP exam in May.

Class Particulars: Usually, Monday's class will be a review session and Tuesday's class will be a lab session, although some weeks, the lab will require both sessions. Between classes, students are expected to read course material and complete lab write-ups and other daily assignments on their own. Tests and grades will be given.

Students are expected to bring the following to class each week: textbook, notebook, workbook(s), lab notebook, pen *and* pencil, and all written assignments (see below).

Dress Code on Lab Days: Students should wear comfortable (not baggy) clothing that is easily washable or that you don't mind getting dirty. Long hair **must** be tied back. No contact lenses, open-toed shoes, bracelets, rings, or loose jewelry should be worn.

Assignments: Each student will receive an assignment sheet, which will list all of the assignments for several weeks at a time. (Assignments will also be posted online at the class web site.) The assignment sheet can also be used to track hours or days, if desired. Assignments will include:

- **Readings.** Students will be expected to read 1 or 2 chapters each week from the assigned textbook.
- **Lab Prep.** Each week, students will receive instructions to prepare for the next lab. These will involve readings and written work.
- **Lab Report.** A write-up of each lab will be due the week following the lab. I recommend writing up the lab report Tuesday afternoon or evening, while everything is still fresh in the student's mind. One lab each semester will require a full lab report.
- **Other Written Assignments.** Most reading assignments will have corresponding written assignments that are intended to solidify the students' understanding of the readings and help students prepare for the AP exam in May. These assignments will include short essay questions as well as problem-solving assignments. If any student encounters difficulty with these written assignments, s/he should contact me by phone or email for extra help.
- **Tests.** At the end of each unit, students will be given a take-home test, which will include multiple choice and essay questions very similar to those found on the AP exam. Tests should be taken on the date indicated and mailed to me the following day so that I can score them before the next class. Tests are **not** open book, so I ask each parent (please!) to supervise these tests and sign them before mailing them back to me.

Grades: Grades will be calculated as followed:

- **Homework:** 25%
- **Labs:** 35%
- **Tests:** 40% (Lowest test score for the year will be dropped.)

A: 85-100%
B: 75-84%
C: 60-74%
D: 50-59%

Mid-Week Help: In addition to being available by phone or email during the week, as questions arise I will also send emails (check email regularly!) and maintain a class web site containing assignments, answers to questions, extra information & clarification, etc.

Absence: I realize that students may need to miss class once or twice for illness. If your child must miss class, please let me know as much ahead of time as possible. With such a small class, we may have to reschedule if one student will miss class, especially on a lab day, since labs cannot be made up. Please note that **students are expected to complete all labs**; missed labs must still be written up based on the other students' data and the CD version of the lab.

Lab Safety: It is essential that lab safety rules be followed carefully. All students must read and sign a lab safety contract prior to the first lab session. Remember, students who repeatedly ignore these safety rules are putting themselves and their classmates at risk and will be suspended from class with no refund. In addition, students will be expected to pay for equipment that they break.

About Your Books: Your textbook is one that college biology majors use in their introductory biology classes. You will find that it is more difficult than the high-school science books you are used to. You will also find that there is much more reading required to keep up with this course. It is essential that you do not fall behind – we will maintain a fast pace to cover all the material you will encounter on the AP exam in May.

Each chapter in your text contains "Concept Checks" and a "Self Quiz." While these will not be assigned, you should take the opportunity to answer the questions (either on paper or in your head) and check the answers in the back.

Science Resources will buy back your textbook at the end of the year for two-thirds (and your AP Exam book for one-half) the price you paid for them **if they are in good condition** – no writing (other than your name in the front), no dog-eared or torn pages, no spills, etc. To help keep your textbook in good condition, please put a book cover on it. We plan to offer this class again in a few years, so if you have a younger sibling, you may want to keep your books. Please note that consumable workbooks cannot be sold back.

Buy-back prices

AP exam book:	\$7.50
Textbook + exam book:	\$67.30

I look forward to seeing you soon!

Lisa Swieson

Assignment for August 22

Read Chapters 1 and 2 in your textbook.

No written assignment for these chapters, since they should be review. Go over the Concept Checks and Self Quizzes, though, to be sure you're "getting it."