

AP Biology Summer Assignment and Class Information

Class Info

AP Biology is considered by many to be one of the most challenging and most rewarding advanced placement classes. The class is equivalent to a first Biology course for a science major in college. Life, both our own and in the world around us, is examined in great detail. The class is fast-paced and information intensive. Students will complete a number of interesting and exciting labs that many individuals do not get to perform until college.

Due to the amount of work and study involved, this class is recommended for seniors with a strong academic record and an interest in the life sciences (Biology, Anatomy, etc.). Having already completed Anatomy & Physiology is helpful but not required. Expect to put in twice as much time working on AP Biology out of class as in. This means approximately 1-1/2 hours of homework per night (i.e. 3 hours of out of class work between each class period). That's a lot! I'm not trying to scare you away, but I want you to realistically determine if you are willing and able to commit to this.

The reason a student should take this class is to learn more about science, particularly the science of life, possibly with the goal of going into a science-related field in college. Solely wanting the AP class so it will look good on your transcript most likely will not lead to a fulfilling experience in this class.

Possibly testing out of your first semester science class in college may be a bonus if you score well enough on the exam at the end of the course. This exam is a standardized exam that AP Biology students all across the country will be taking early in May. Although it is not required that SBCS students take this exam, it is highly recommended. Experience has shown that students expecting to take the exam will take the class more seriously and perform better than students not planning on taking the exam. However, rather than taking the class with the sole goal of receiving college credit, students should look forward to gaining lots of interesting knowledge that will help them in college.

Keep in mind that if AP Biology ends up on the schedule as a 4th period class, and you play sports, you will be missing discussions in class that are hard to make up for on your own.

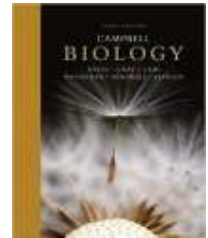
The text is a secular, college-level book. Evolution is strongly emphasized by the text, and students will learn much about evolutionary theory. This theory is prevalent in the world around us and students need to understand the ideas involved. HOWEVER, the more we examine the theories and compare them to Biblical teaching and information presented by scientists who believe in Creation, the more we see how illogical and fanciful the ideas of evolutionary theory are.

Approximate expenses to be expected for this class:

- Textbook (can be \$150 or more used). Students purchase this on their own. Details are below.
- Additional reading book. Students purchase this on their own. Details are below.
- "The exam" at the end of the class (for college credit) is usually around \$90. This will be charged to students' accounts.

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Our textbook is: **Biology** by Reece et al, 10th edition (ISBN-13: 978-0321775658),



- You can find the book at online merchants such as www.amazon.com , www.half.com , www.alibris.com, etc. McKays (used bookstore in town) also has it. Forsyth Tech may also have it in their main bookstore.
- If buying online, look for “minimal highlighting” or “no highlighting”, “great condition”, etc.
- If buying online, look for a vendor with a very good track record of service (a good rating by satisfied buyers).
- Buy now rather than waiting. You will find a better selection of books and lower prices now than later in the summer.

Summer Assignment

The summer assignment is to read the last 5 chapters of the textbook and answer the questions I will be sending you in another e-mail. There is so much material in this book it is necessary that we start on it in the summer. The questions are due the first day of class and will count as a test grade.

Additional Reading

The additional reading is “Refuting Evolution” by Jonathan Sarfati, Ph.D. It is published by Master Books, and the ISBN # is 0-89051-258-2. It is no longer being printed but you can find it at www.amazon.com. We will discuss this book as we get into the evolution chapters of the textbook. Evolutionary belief is all around us and even more so as students progress in science classes in college. A Christian student needs to know the basics of evolution as well as cogent arguments refuting evolutionary ideas. “Refuting Evolution” by Jonathan Sarfati gives both in a concise, readable format.

Please call or text me with any questions at 336.407.0279. Email over the summer is not the best; I don’t check school email regularly over the summer.

Budget your time so you can enjoy your summer and get your work done. ☺

See you in August ☺.

Dr J

see also next page...

Parent and student please sign below and submit this to Dr J on the first day of class.

I understand the details of the AP Biology class and commit to helping my son/daughter spend the necessary time to succeed in this class.

parent signature

date

I understand the details of the AP Biology class and commit to spending the necessary time to succeed in this class.

student signature

date