

A.P. BIOLOGY COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Marna Chamberlain

Welcome to AP Biology! My goal is to continue to foster a life long desire to learn about the world around you with biology as the central dogma. The passion we have for science will grow as we use inquiry, critical thinking and technology to further enrich our knowledge and by making connections!

This is a college-level course. Excellent behavior and participation are expected. Attendance is extremely important. Tardiness and cuts are not appreciated (See academic responsibility grading policy below.) Please be prompt. . All assignments are due on the date assigned. If you need to postpone an assignment due date, contact me prior to the due date if you want me to consider an alternate date.

Make sure you read the calendar so you have the lab instructions with you on lab days. Many times a 'pre-lab' will be required with the specific lab objectives, hypothesis, null hypothesis, variables identified, a diagram of the lab setup with labels, checklist procedure (can be pasted from a lab) and all labeled data tables completed with a ruler in your lab journal before being allowed to participate in the laboratory activity. All Lab write-ups need to be typed and any graphs need to be computer generated using the best-fit format when applicable. There will be specific instructions given in class or listed on the calendar for each laboratory write-up. Graphs on notebook paper are only acceptable when discussed and usually are accompanied with a computer generated one as well. If you do not have access to a computer or graphing program, there is one on the classroom computer for your use before school, lunch or after school. PLEASE NOTE: You must complete homework and laboratory activities and write-ups ON TIME to be eligible for an A grade.

Required materials: journal, binder, pens, pencils, calculator and paper.

<u>Grading Policy:</u>		<u>Grade Percents: changes from 1st to 2nd semester</u>
100-92 A	91.99-90 A-	Homework app: 10% (includes article reviews) decreases to 5% Sem 2
89.99-82 B	81.99-80 B-	Labs: appx. 35%
79.99-72 C	71.99-70 C-	Assessments: appx. 40% Increases to 45% Sem 2
69.99-62 D	61.99-60 D-	Final: appx. 15%
	59.99 -> F	Extra credit: appx. 2%

A lab notebook as well as a binder with all of the graded lab write ups in chronological order is due the day of the final exam. At the front of the lab notebook is a one page typed synopsis of the lab concepts, skills and techniques you have mastered. This should be in the format of a resume so you may present this portfolio to college professors in order to acquire a position as a TA or lab technician. (Use appropriate vocabulary. See handouts during the year for action words.)

Grades are posted on the school website approximately every two weeks.

Unit tests consist of multiple choice questions, short answers and essays up to 100 points. Reading quizzes will be worth 5-20 points Formal Laboratory write-ups are worth up 40 to 50 points. Semi-formal write-ups range up to 20-30 points. Homework assignments are worth approximately 5% , incomplete work will result in a zero. Article reviews are worth 5 points each.

Late Work/Absent Work

All work is due when assigned. All late work for a unit will be due by the unit test or by prior agreement with the teacher. Assignments are due on the day assigned unless mutually agreed on by the teacher and student. Late work due to computer failure is only accepted with a parent note. Any assignment without the note is only worth half credit.

If work was assigned before your absence, absent work is due on the day you return. Work assigned during your absence is due within 3 school days of your return, unless mutually agreed on by the teacher and student. It is the responsibility of the student to check the calendar for missed assignments, pick up any handouts, seek clarification if confused and to make up missed laboratory work, tests and quizzes at lunch or after school by arrangement within one week or no credit will be given. NOTE: alternate quizzes and tests will/may be given for students who miss test dates or the next assessment will count for the missed assessment whichever is easier on the teacher.

Academic dishonesty:

Defined as cheating of any kind, including misrepresenting one's own work, taking credit for the work of others without crediting them and without appropriate authorization, and the fabrication of information.

Common examples of academically dishonest behavior include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Cheating - intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to improve one's grade; copying from another student's work; submitting same work for an assignment in more than one class without prior permission of both instructors; representing material prepared by another as one's own work; inappropriate test taking conduct; violating rules of academic conduct relating to this course. THIS INCLUDES THE USE OF CELL PHONES DURING ANY QUIZ OR TEST- USE OF A CELL PHONE AT ALL WILL RESULT IN ZERO POINTS FOR THE QUIZ OR TEST.
2. Fabrication - intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any data, information, or citation in an academic exercise.
3. Plagiarism - intentionally representing the words, ideas, or sequences of ideas of another, as one's own in any academic exercise; failure to attribute any of the following: quotations, paraphrases, or borrowed information.
4. Falsification and forgery - knowingly making a false statement, concealing material information or forging another's signature. Over->>>
5. Facilitating academic dishonesty - intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic dishonesty.
6. Use of cellular phones, text messaging, etc. - use of any current electronic technological advance during an exam will result in a zero test score.

Any of the infractions mentioned in this section will result in a discipline notice to the appropriate assistant principal. This will be entered on the student's discipline screen. A request will be made for the student to be dropped from a course with an "F" on the second academic dishonesty violation which takes place in any class during the school year. All rules and policies in the Piedmont High School Student Handbook 2010/2011 will apply if not addressed in this class policy.

Thank you,

Mrs. Chamberlain (Email: mchamberlain@piedmont.k12.ca.us)

