



JUNIPERO SERRA HIGH SCHOOL
5156 Santo Road
San Diego, California 92124
858-496-8342 X170

INSTRUCTOR

Ericka Senegar-Mitchell, Ph.D.
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COURSE WEBSITE

www.bridgestoliteracy.com

DROP-IN CONFERENCE PERIOD

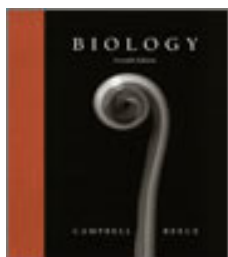
Monday/Wednesday 2:30-4:00 pm

COURSE PHILOSOPHY

As your instructor, my paramount concern is the development of effective, collaborative, student-centered learning communities. I am committed to the continuous learning and active participation of ALL class members at ALL times. I believe each student is responsible for creating an atmosphere of honesty and trust by openly and respectfully communicating with each other and the instructor. I embrace diversity and respect the individuality of all members of the learning community. I value relevant input from all stakeholders involved in the learning process and I especially encourage young adults to become problem-solvers not problem-dodgers. Finally, I gladly accept explanations but never entertain excuses from which individual growth cannot be gained.

BASIC TEXTS AND TEACHING GUIDES

Campbell, *Biology*, 7th ed., Prentice Hall, 2005.



BIOLOGY 1, 2 ADVANCED PLACEMENT or AP BIOLOGY (6191, 6192)

Grade level: 10-12

Prerequisites: Chemistry 1, 2 and Biology 1, 2, or equivalents; the commitment to succeed in rigorous AP content. Some students with high achievement in Chemistry 1, 2 may qualify to take this as their first course in biology.

Course duration: Two semesters

Subject area in which graduation credit is given:

Science; weighted (see note below)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Honors Preparatory Course (HP). In this course students engage in learning activities equivalent to those of a freshman biology course at the university level. Students successful in this course attain a depth of understanding of fundamental biological concepts and are able to demonstrate that understanding, orally and in writing, with clarity and logic. The application and relevance of biology to students' lives and to society are stressed, and inquiry and the nature of science are important content elements. Materials used for this course differ qualitatively from those used in other biology courses in both rigor and content, and in the complexity of laboratory experiences.

Laboratory activities represent more than 25% of the instructional experience in this course. The students' learning activities are intended to prepare them to succeed in the Advanced Placement Examination in Biology and all students enrolled are encouraged to take the AP Biology test.

NOTE: Students who complete this course successfully but do not take the AP Biology examination will receive *unweighted* credit.

The course as well as the AP Biology Exam is organized around three main topics:

- Molecules and Cells (25%)
- Heredity and Evolution (25%)
- Organisms and Populations (50%)



Major Themes covered within the topics are:

- Science as a Process
- Evolution
- Energy Transfer
- Continuity of Change
- Relationship of Structure and Function
- Regulation
- Interdependence in Nature
- Science, Technology, and Society

LABORATORY REQUIREMENT

Students enrolled in AP Biology will be required to complete twelve (12) labs set forth by the College Board Advanced Placement Program.

Due to the large amount of time required for laboratory set-up and the mandatory participation of each student in lab activities, it is essential that students are always present on lab days. Although the instructor will assist students with documented excused absences make-up missed lab activities, there is no guarantee that an experience equivalent to the scheduled lab activity will be available.

SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS

Students are expected to bring a textbook, composition or warm-up log/journal (provided by the instructor), three-ring view binder with looseleaf paper, #2 pencils, blue or black ink pen, and a highlighter to class daily. All worksheets, handouts, and assignments are to be kept in their 3-ring binder. Students **MUST** have access to the internet (school, library, and/or home) in order to utilize the online textbook and publisher website resources, online quizzes, instructor's website and virtual lab activities. A student's inability to access these resources will have an adverse affect on their academic achievement in this course.

GRADES

Student grades will be based on the evaluation of all **COMPLETE** laboratory activities, projects, classwork /homework assignments and assessments. Incomplete assignments will **NOT** be awarded partial credit. **ALL** assignments and assessments are included in the computation of each student's grade, unless otherwise indicated by the instructor, and all coursework carries the same weight. **LATE WORK IS NOT ACCEPTED FOR CREDIT**, but assignments submitted after the due date will be evaluated for its content and feedback given to the student.

Academic Marks

- **A = Outstanding level of performance**
Student has done excellent work and has mastered the course objectives, consistently does excellent work with skill and thoroughness; and consistently has applied knowledge gained to new situations.
- **B = High level of performance**
Student has done above average work, mastered almost all of the course objectives; and has applied knowledge gained to new situations.
- **C = Satisfactory level of performance**
Student has done average work and has mastered many of the objectives of the course.
- **D = Needs improvement in performance**
Student has done below average work and has mastered few of the objectives of the course.
- **F = Unsatisfactory level of performance**
Student's work fell below a level of acceptance for the course and was unsatisfactory.

Grade Scale*

A	100 - 93	B-	82 - 80	D+	69 - 67
A-	92 - 90	C+	79 - 77	D	66 - 63
B+	89 - 86	C	76 - 73	D-	62 - 59
B	85 - 83	C-	72 - 70	F	58 - 0

*Only letter grades will appear on report cards and transcripts.

Citizenship Marks

Evaluation codes for work-study habits, attitude, behavior and attendance are:

- E = Excellent level of performance
- G= Good level of performance
- S = Satisfactory level of performance
- N = Needs Improvement in performance
- U = Unsatisfactory level of performance

Advanced Placement Biology

Exam

MONDAY, MAY 12, 2008 @ 8AM

Citizenship Grades will be based upon the following criteria for each grading period:

- To receive an "E" or "G" students must have no more than two tardies (NO tardies for grade of "E"), NO unverified absences and NO missed assignments, be respectful in class to teacher, fellow students and other members of the learning community, adhere to our classroom philosophy and school policies and actively participate in ALL class activities.

- To receive a "S" (Satisfactory) students must have no more than three tardies, NO unverified absences, 1-3 missed assignments, display above average classroom behavior and participation, adhere to our classroom philosophy and school policies and actively participate in class activities.

- A student may receive a "N" (Needs Improvement) for **ONE** of the following violations: accumulating four tardies, 1-2 unverified absences, 4-5 missing assignments, talking during instruction or otherwise being disruptive to the learning process, being disrespectful to the teacher, other students or substitute teacher, not adhering to class or school policies, blatant abuse or vandalism of lab equipment or school property, displaying below average classroom behavior and participation.

- A student may receive a "U" (Unsatisfactory) for **ONE** of the following violations: accumulating five or more tardies, three or more unverified absences more than five missing assignments, flagrant disrespect to the teacher, other students or substitute teacher, defiant behavior or conduct that undermines the class learning environment, consistently exhibiting off task behaviors, lack of academic integrity (cheating, plagiarism, forging progress reports, submitting work NOT their own, etc.)

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Individual classroom behavior will not only affect the citizenship grade, but it also affects learning readiness and thus can ultimately have a negative influence on academic achievement. We will follow a standard progressive discipline method starting with the student, then involving the parent, and finally sharing the situation with a member of our administrative team.

ATTENDANCE

AP Biology & Advanced Biology courses will adhere to the school-wide attendance program. Please refer to the parent/student handbook for more details. Parents are required to excuse a students' absence by calling the attendance office @ 858-496-8342 ext. 205 by 8am.

PARENTS: It is important to understand that excusing your student from a day of school does not excuse them from the work they should have completed or from assignments that were due on the day of their absence. Student academic progress can be hindered as a result of frequent absences but lower grades can be avoided. Please request class assignments within two weeks of a long-term absence and refer to course website or contact instructor via email for one day excused absences.



Parents are encouraged to monitor student progress and attendance through the district-wide Zangle program at:

<https://dwa.sis.sandi.net/parentconnect/>