**Ms. Rinaldo’s**

**Advanced Placement Biology Course Syllabus**

School Phone: (845) 855-4620

Email: [Rinaldog@pcsdny.org](mailto:Rinaldog@pcsdny.org)

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Free Periods: 1, 7

Course Description

Welcome to the Advanced Placement Biology course offered at Pawling High School. AP Biology is a rigorous course that is designed to be the equivalent of TWO SEMESTERS of introductory biology courses during their first year of college.  Students who score high enough on the AP Exam can earn EIGHT (or more) credit hours, depending on their chosen university.  This course, therefore, moves rather quickly and class time focuses on discussions and activities.  Students are expected to be motivated, self-disciplined, willing to work as a team, persistent, and capable of both remembering details and seeing “the big picture”.  Biology is a tangible subject for most students, so this class will also focus on human health and global issues, as well as how the study of biology differs across different cultures.

The AP Biology course includes lectures, class discussions, projects, inquiry learning, activities, group work, laboratory work, and lab reports. As much as possible we will try to include real world experiences such as field trips. There will be a significant amount of content to cover; therefore you will be responsible to do a great deal of work out of school. This will require a sincere commitment on your part, which you should institute from the very beginning of classes. You will also be required to review all laboratory experiments and procedures prior to each lab, so that we can begin the work immediately. Failure to meet lab requirements will result in a failing grade. Attendance is imperative.

The topics covered in this course are dictated by the College Board and include biochemistry, cell structure and function, cell energetics, cellular reproduction and communication, heredity, molecular genetics, evolution, ecology, classification, plant structure and function, animal structure and physiology.   The expectation is for students to take the AP Biology exam in May, and this course will focus on preparing you for the exam.

Students may access more information about the AP Biology College Board Examination at the following website: <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/sub_bio.html?biology>

Student Responsibilities

Students are held to the same standards as a college-level biology student.

* Students should attend class everyday
* Students are expected to be attentive and participate in class.
* Students are responsible for reading assigned chapters whether they are discussed in class or not
* Students are expected to do all assignments, whether they are discussed in class or not

\*Successful AP students are self-learners, independent, and responsible\*

In our class, we will adhere to the following guidelines to promote integrity:

* Study and work in an honest and respectable manner.
* You must complete and submit your own work.
* You are encouraged to work with others only under prescribed circumstances.
* Do not copy someone else's answers in or out of the classroom.
* Do not seek unauthorized help from those outside the classroom.
* Cite all sources.
* Quizzes and tests are to be completed without assistance from any outside source.
* Keep your eyes on your own paper during quizzes and exams.
* Protect your answers.
* Cell phones and other electronic devices are to be used for educational purposes ONLY

If a violation of the honor code is suspected the student(s) will be invited to meet privately with the instructor, the behavior discussed and necessary paperwork will be submitted.

Please understand that YOU, much more than I, will determine your success in this course. The course goes at a rapid pace for the whole year and nothing less than your full attention will be needed to keep your head above water. I expect that the required course materials will be brought to class daily. Please keep the AP Biology textbook that was checked out to you at home in a safe location. You should be reading the AP Biology text book nightly so I do not expect you to carry it to and from school every day. If a textbook is required for a lesson at school, then I will provide you with one. You should be ready to discuss the information read in any assigned chapters.

***Philosophy-***

Studying Biology in the 21st Century is a very exciting time. “The Study of Life”, what could be more interesting? It is my hope that everyone in this class will share a love of Biology and an intense desire to investigate all the incredible new discoveries that are being made every day. Our classroom will be a safe place to question, learn, and teach each other. I expect all of you to participate fully in every aspect of this course. This will include your best attendance, focus, effort, and pushing yourself beyond your usual limits. If all of us are vested in this way, we will have a successful and thrilling year together. I will help you with study and homework strategies to insure that you do your very best in this class and that you are prepared to go on and study more about life in college.

***Attendance & Make-up Work-***

It is your responsibility to be in class. If you are unable to attend it is **YOUR** **OWN** responsibility to complete your make-up work. It is your responsibility to acquire and make-up any class work, homework and notes from any absence. You will have the number of days that you were absent to complete make-up work. After the allotted number of days, if the work is not completed the grade is a **ZERO**! If a student is absent the day of a previously scheduled exam or project, the student will be prepared to take the test or turn in the assignment on the first day of return.

***Classroom Rules & Expectations-***

1. Be on time and in your seat when the bell rings with all required supplies.
2. Keep all personal items in your backpack or locker. This includes: hats, cell phones, iPods, electronics, cosmetics, etc.
3. Be actively involved in your learning by taking responsibility for your actions, effort and participation.
4. Be respectful to your teachers, peers and all Pawling High School staff members.

***Plagiarism & Cheating-***

If you are caught copying from the internet or any other source without citation, you will receive a zero for that assignment. If you are caught copying off somebody else’s work and/or you are letting a person copy from your work, you will be given a zero for that assignment.

***Teacher Obligations-***

I am here to teach students the topics included in the curriculum set forth by the College Board.  Students can monitor their own progress via the parent portal.  I am available during lunch and after school by appointment to offer additional help and assist in finding other ways to help students. I will treat all students fairly and do all in my power to ensure the success of my students.  I will update grades at least once per week to keep students and parents aware of progress through the course.

***Extra Help-***

Extra Help is available after school every day from 2:25 pm to 3:15 pm or during free periods by appointment only. Other appointments for extra help can made in addition to these hours if needed.

***Supplies-***

1. 3 Ring Binder or Notebook with pocket folders
2. Pens, Pencils and Highlighters
3. Scientific or graphing calculator
4. Spiral Notebook and 2 Pocket Folder for Lab
5. Graph Paper
6. At some point it will be necessary to purchase a review book. Information will be given at that time.

***Grading Policy-***

Your grade will be calculated based on the following topics:

Class work/ Homework- 20%

Projects and Activities- 10%

Tests/ Quizzes- 50%

Class Participation- 5%

Labs- 15%

***Laboratory Component-***

Students are provided with labs that comprise a portion of the course and include at least 8 inquiry labs (2 per Big Idea) set forth by The College Board Advanced Placement Program.  In addition, there are also several other labs included in the course.  Students are expected to read each lab carefully before coming to the laboratory and are responsible for following all correct laboratory and safety procedures. Students should read every lab thoroughly to make sure they understand all lab procedures BEFORE beginning a lab exercise. Due to the large amount of time required for laboratory set-up, it is essential that you are always present on lab days. Please be prepared to utilize study halls and/or stay after school to finish long labs that you are unable to complete in the allotted lab time. All labs will be due within a week of completion.  A due date will be set at the start of the lab.  Late lab work will have points deducted.

***After the AP Biology Exam***-

Students will participate in dissections and a project at the end of the semester.  The rigor of the course will be maintained throughout the school year.

***Suggestions for Student Success-***

You will find this course quite challenging. You will also grow and learn strategies for dealing with challenges. Different strategies work for different people. There are no magic formulas. Here are some suggestions for success:

1. Read the chapter we are going over BEFORE the class.
2. Reread the chapter and notes from class. For some, rewriting/organizing notes is an effective use of time.
3. Ask questions.
4. Some chapters are better digested in smaller chunks.
5. Use the vocabulary lists, text headings, and questions to help you focus on important points in each chapter. Try different study strategies and learn which works best for you.
6. Stay up to date on your assignments, lab activities and reports.
7. Use the text to prepare assignments but do NOT copy from the book or any other resource. Be sure to paraphrase and/or write in your own words.
8. Proof read all written assignments before submitting them. Hand in assignments that are neat, legible show attention to detail and demonstrate pride in your work.
9. Start test review/preparation AT LEAST 3 days before the test.
10. Find and work with a study partner and/a study group frequently.
11. Pay attention during lecture and help to maintain a distraction-free learning environment. This means that you do not talk to anyone unless it is in direct relation to an assigned activity.
12. Participate intelligently in class discussions often.

**AP Exam**

**Monday May 14th 2018**

You may check your own/child’s status/grades online at Pawling High School’s Parent Portal

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me via email or telephone listed above.

Looking forward to a fantastic and successful year!

Sincerely,

Gillian Rinaldo

Pawling High School

Science Teacher

[Rinaldog@pcsdny.org](mailto:Rinaldog@pcsdny.org)

Dear Parents,

Please review the course syllabus with your child, then complete and sign in the space below. Return ***ONLY*** this page to Ms. Rinaldo. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at [Rinaldog@pcsdny.org](mailto:Rinaldog@pcsdny.org).

In order to be kept advised and updated on homework, projects, test dates etc., please visit our class website often (http://www.pawlingschools.org/webpages/grinaldo). In addition, Parent Portal is available to check your own/child’s status/grades online. Your involvement will help to insure a successful year for your child.

**STUDENT NAME (print) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**PARENT NAME/S (print) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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**PARENT CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**WORK PHONE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**CELL PHONE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

I have read and understand all of the above requirements.

Student Signature

Parent Signature