Mr. Carter’s AP Biology Syllabus

**Intro**

Welcome back to school! This course is AP biology. Over the course of the year we will cover a wide variety of topics from organic compounds to ecosystems. We will cover this material using a variety of practices and techniques such as labs, lectures, movies, readings, outdoor adventures, note taking and open inquires. This is a fast paced college level class. Students can expect at least an hour of reviewing or homework every night.

My personal teaching philosophy consists of sharing knowledge with an individual in a fair and honest way, in which the individual will remember and retain the knowledge. I want to gauge my students and my own learning through engaging student activities, capturing interest and various forms of assessment.

**Materials needed for AP Biology:**

**Writing utensil**

**Folder**

**Notebook**

**Chromebook**

**Textbook**

**Textbook:** Campbell, Reece., et. al., Biology, 8th Edition. San Francisco CA, Pearson Education, 2008.

**OPTIONAL:** Though not a requirement, it is recommended that students purchase one of the AP Biology course preparation books that are currently on the market. There are several available and students should peruse the titles and select one based on personal preference. It is not a good idea to wait until the few weeks before the examination to buy the book; buy it at the beginning of the course and use it regularly throughout the year.

**Grading**

Over the course of the year students will be assessed/graded over three categories:

***Homework: 10 %*** (generally will have 2-3times/week)

***Test/Quizzes: 40%*** (generally will have a test every 4 weeks)

***Labs/Projects: 20%*** (generally will have one per chapter)

***Exams: 20%*** (will have one at the end of each semester)

***Attendance: 10%***

\*All classroom activities will fall into on of the categories above and may change throughout the course of the year due to time and student interest. Grading scale is per the handbook for AP Classes.

NO LATE WORK ACCEPTED!

**AP Exam:** Students taking the AP exam in the spring will not be required to take a final at the end of semester two as this will substitute the final and not impact your grade. Students not taking the AP exam will be required to take a final at the end of semester two and it will be a previously used version of the AP exam and will be factored into your final grade. Financial assistance is available for students in need who would like to take the AP test in the spring.

If a student has an excused absence the student has the number of days they were absent plus one additional day to turn in missing work from their absence. Additional days may be set aside for make-up labs depending on the lab. Students will be informed of tests a week in advance, therefore if a student is absent the day before a test the student will still be expected to take their test on the day of the test.

**Rules and Expectations:**

Students are to come to class prepared, every day with book, something to write with, notebook and folder.

Rules for my class are the rules listed in the Elk Rapids High School handbook and a list of classroom expectations is posted in the front of the room.

Students are to sit only on the lecture side of the classroom. The lab portion of the room is reserved for lab activities or other activities as determined by the teacher.

Misbehavior in lab will result in a zero. Due to the nature of some labs, very dangerous conditions could result from misbehavior and could result in injury.

Students will be given 5 passes for the semester. Passes may be used for late homework assignments, to leave to room or turned in for extra credit at the end of the semester.

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in any way, shape or form and could result in a zero for all parties involved. Please do not cheat.

**Contact Information**

The best way to contact me is by email. Please feel free to call and/or set up additional conference times as needed.

Email: [mcarter@erschools.com](mailto:mcarter@erschools.com)

Website: mcarterbio.weebly.com

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**AP Biology Course Outline**

This is a tentative outline for general AP biology. Chapters are subject to change. Topics may be combined and/or order of chapters maybe altered throughout the year. The following chapters are aligned with the College Board.

1. **CHEMISRTY OF LIFE**
2. **THE CELL**
3. **GENETICS**
4. **MECHINISMS OF EVOLUTION**
5. **EVOUTIONARY HISTORY OF BIODIVERSITY**
6. **ANIMAL FORM AND FUCTION**
7. **ECOLOGY**