



Course: *AP Biology*

Date: *Jan 2026 - May 2026*

Teacher: *L. Dowd*

Contact information for your instructor:

E-Mail: liliana.dowd@morgan.k12.ga.us

Website: bit.ly/Dowdsite

Course Description:

AP Biology is an introductory college-level biology course taught in the high school. This course will emphasize application, processes, and critical thinking over simple memorization of facts. An excellent work ethic is expected since this course mimics a college biology course. In this course, advanced concepts of biology will be taught through lecture, hands-on activities and labs, group inquiry and discussion, and reading.

Curriculum:

The AP Biology framework is organized into eight units of study.

Unit	Exam Weighting (Multiple-Choice Section)
Unit 1: Chemistry of Life	8%–11%
Unit 2: Cell Structure and Function	10%–13%
Unit 3: Cellular Energetics	12%–16%
Unit 4: Cell Communication and Cell Cycle	10%–15%
Unit 5: Heredity	8%–11%
Unit 6: Gene Expression and Regulation	12%–16%
Unit 7: Natural Selection	13%–20%
Unit 8: Ecology	10%–15%

Science Practices

The AP Biology course description outlines distinct skills, called science practices, that students should practice throughout the year—skills that will help them learn to think and act like biologists. These Science Practices will be tested on the AP[®] Biology Exam in May.

Skill	Description	Exam Weighting (Multiple-Choice Section)
1. Concept Explanation	Explain biological concepts, processes, and models presented in written format.	25%–33%
2. Visual Representations	Analyze visual representations of biological concepts and processes.	16%–24%
3. Questions and Methods	Determine scientific questions and methods.	8%–14%
4. Representing and Describing Data	Represent and describe data.	8%–14%
5. Statistical Tests and Data Analysis	Perform statistical tests and mathematical calculations to analyze and interpret data.	8%–14%
6. Argumentation	Develop and justify scientific arguments using evidence.	20%–26%

Instructional Materials & Content:

3 ring binder, paper, pencils, pens, Chromebook
Textbook: Biology, AP Edition, Campbell and Reece

Morgan County High School teachers are intentional in identifying engaging and differentiated learning and critical thinking opportunities to support course standards and learning goals. We respect a variety of diverse backgrounds in the classroom; accordingly, students can and should expect to participate in a sensitive, mutual exchange of ideas during informed classroom discussions, readings, and activities. Therefore, students may read and discuss course-specific or student-selected content in their academic courses that may contain mature or diverse opinions. Students will read and analyze works in a discrete and meaningful manner. Morgan County High School does not condone inappropriate or illicit behaviors. Rather, text selections are curated to promote an understanding of the world and the student's ability to think critically about—and approach—the problems of humanity.

Grading Policy

50% Tests
30% Labs and projects
20% Daily grades to include classwork, quizzes and daily assignments

Final Exam & Exemption Policy

Final exams are required for all courses, even those with EOC assessments.

Students have an opportunity to exempt the final exam; guidelines are on the MCHS website and linked here:
<http://bit.ly/41bADka>

The number of absences for exemption consideration includes all absences, both excused and unexcused. While we understand that there are events that may warrant absences above the number for exemption status, we must maintain a consistent approach to the expectation for absences allowed in order to be fair to all students. Know, too, that the final exam is an opportunity for students to sit for a comprehensive exam and familiarize themselves with this experience prior to post-secondary experiences.

Policies & Classroom Expectations:

Being a college level course, I expect all students to exhibit behavior appropriate to the classroom.

- Be respectful of one another
 - Be responsible
- Be on time and ready to learn
 - Clean up after yourself

I adhere to school rules as outlined in the student handbook: <http://bit.ly/454IwJq>

Cell phones: Cell phones must be put away at all times. Students who choose to keep their phone and use it without permission will have their phone confiscated for the period and a change report filed.

Tutoring: I am available most days after school, during lunch, and by appointment.

Test revisions: All students are given the opportunity to earn back points missed on tests. In order to do so, they must make revisions on the original test. Revisions work like this: 1.) For any incorrect answer on the original test, you will write out the question, 2.) then write the correct answer (if multiple choice, write out the entire answer), and 3.) write an explanation as to why the answer is correct. Corrections will be handwritten on a separate sheet of paper. Completed test corrections will earn the student half of the points that were originally missed.

Absences: If you are absent, check Google Classroom for the day's assignments.

Consequences for breaking class policies range from verbal warnings, change reports, call/email home, and referrals.

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to complete and submit assignments that represent their own work. If any student has a question about expectations for submission of group work or research, please ask me! I will provide answers and make sure you understand what is acceptable.

Policy: <http://bit.ly/4o9ndz2>

***Any event of academic dishonesty will result in the student not being able to exempt their final.**

I am looking forward to an exciting year of science learning!

Liliana Dowd

We have read and understand the expectations outlined in the syllabus for Environmental Science and Mrs. Dowd's classroom expectations.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Student name & Signature:

(Please print legibly)

(Signature)