

AP Biology 2018-2019

So, I hear that you are signed up for AP Biology next fall. In case you haven't heard, this is a no nonsense class equivalent to a two-semester college course which is **nothing** like freshman year Living Environment (what I refer to as 'Biology Lite'). To be prepared as soon as we start in September, there are a few things that you need to do before classes begin in the fall:

1. Send an e-mail to jgoldberg.rpi@gmail.com **ASAP** with your name and **BOTH** your school e-mail address and a non-school e-mail address that you use so you can be added to the AP class list for updates throughout the summer and all through next year. **I need both because there have been issues with Chromebooks and my Gmail account...**
2. Towards the end of summer, I will assign you an on-line textbook code to the email address you provide that will link you up to the textbook that we use. This is where you will have access to your text with all of its awesome multimedia – of which I use some in class. This is also the place where you will complete the on-line quiz part of your grade next year.
3. Expect 3 assignments e-mailed to you this summer.
 - a. The first will be a question multiple choice AP Biology Pre-Test (this will be sent right as school ends). Some questions will be hard, some will cover material you have not seen before, but they are all representative questions of what the AP exam questions are like.
 - b. The second will be a review of using Excel (or any other spreadsheet program – such as Google Sheets, OpenOffice, Numbers, etc.) to properly make data tables, graphs, and charts. Knowing how to use a professional program to present data is an integral skill in science. We don't have time to review these computer skills once class starts! (You will get this around the 4th of July.)
 - c. Finally, you will have a formal lab report that you will have to complete in the format described in the "AP Biology Lab Manual" that I have put together. Don't worry – it will be a lab that every former Living Environment student did back in the day... but this time, it will be written the way it supposed to be! Make sure you do your OWN WORK. (You will get this assignment around August 1st and it will be due on the first day of classes.)
4. Pick up a 3" (or bigger) binder for your Lab Manual and Question Sets. Bigger is better – Lecture Notes can (should) be added if you feel like printing them out. Stop by G-82 before classes finish if you want to see what you should get. You are required to bring this to class, and use it, every day – seriously!
5. Get a good old-fashioned composition notebook that will serve as your lab book for pre-labs and all data collected throughout the year's lab activities.
6. Check out www.goldiesroom.org: The AP section is of primary concern to you, but you should refresh yourself with all of the Regents notes and links and such.
7. Ask some of the current students in AP Biology (or come down to see me in G82) about what to expect. It is not for lightweights... You will find that this class might not be what you think it is – especially if you think Biology is the same as Living Environment!



J. Goldberg

Be prepared to release your INNER-NERD...which is a *good* thing!