

AP Biology 2018-2019 Summer Assignment-Dr. Gottfried  
Alonzo and Tracy Mourning Senior High Biscayne Bay Campus

### Welcome-

I am very pleased to have you as a member of what promises to be an excellent class. I wanted to get in touch with you before we begin so that you could know what to expect and how to get the most out of the AP class. [If you are getting this by mistake and are not planning to take AP Biology next year please let me know! If you know someone who thinks they are taking AP Biology next year and didn't get this, please let me know!]

Advanced Placement Biology is a college biology course taught in high school. On Monday May 13, 2019 you will take a standardized exam which will determine your eligibility for credit in college biology.

The course, the exam, and everything related to them are all designed to be at the level of a biology course taught to science majors at an elite university. This is not an easy class. **It would not be an easy class in college.**

Class will be conducted at the University level and you are expected to work accordingly. Your success in this class depends on **you** meeting **your** responsibilities. A significant portion of the material will be covered only in readings and allowances should be made for **substantial study time**. **(I would guess about 5-7 hours a week every week! One student last year said I lied about this, and he worked MUCH less than 5-7 hours a week. I checked his grades & AP exam score. He should have worked more!)**

**Generally, in most programs, there are strict prerequisites and only students with As and Bs in honors biology and honors chemistry are taken into AP Biology– I have made some exceptions to this, if you find yourself “drowning” don't wait to go down for the third time, but come seek help as soon as you realize you are out of your depth (this also applies to those who did well in biology and chemistry, but, aren't well prepared). There are things you can do to help yourself.**

The textbook we will be using is Campbell's Biology 9<sup>th</sup> Edition. It is also recommended that you purchase one of the AP Biology study guides as soon as possible, since they provide summaries of the material. Talk to the kids who took the class last year and see which book they recommend (Cliffs and Barrons seem to be the most recommended.) You may want to set up a study group and as the group purchase a collection of review books. It can't hurt! There are other text resources that are available, if you find Campbell too dense. I may end up using the OpenStax books as well as Campbell, they are an excellent free resource.

I believe in using computers to keep lines of communication open between students and teachers. I have setup a web page: <http://www.mdgottfried.net/apagenda/apagenda2018-2019.html> which will contain information on the class as it evolves.

I encourage you to sign up for text/email reminders via remind.com. Either text @apbio1819 to 81010 or email [apbio1819@mail.remind.com](mailto:apbio1819@mail.remind.com). Standard text rates apply. If you use the email option you can leave the subject and body of the message blank. There is also a sign up page: <https://www.remind.com/join/apbio1819>

### Summer-

To overcome some of the time constraints I have in the past given summer readings and significant homework. This allowed us to get started with biology rather than to bog down in some background material. It also covers some material that we rarely have time for during the school year.

This year there are 3.5 assignments.

A] I want you **all** to read *Your Inner Fish*. This year (for the first time) there is an extra-credit option of reading a second book. Read: *Your Inner Fish* by Neil Shubin. It focuses on evolution. It should be available in the public libraries as well as at bookstores or Amazon.com. You may be able to borrow a copy from students who took AP Biology in 2011-18; I required them to read it too. 😊

There was even a 3 part documentary spring 2014 on PBS based on this book. (It may also be available on YouTube). I don't know if the 3 hour documentary would replace or only supplement reading the book.

This letter is available, with “live” hyperlinks via my web page: <http://mdgottfried.net>

A-Extra Credit] Read: Wizard and the Prophet by Charles Mann. It focuses on environmentalism and the future. It is a new book (January 2018) and you will probably have to purchase it.

To go along with the either book I have prepared a series of questions which you have to answer for the grade. When you have finished the book(s) and all the questions, you can submit any time before Monday 8/20/2018. (After that, it will be counted late). I'm trying google forms for this. I'd suggest you write out the answers in word (or some other program) and cut and paste them into the form.

Your Inner Fish:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=13lF483vt-yd4VjH2tN7yVl2sB4MnZG9aL30dphEVe6o>

The Wizard and the Prophet:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1s4oTZ5HUltzkInVaRQjxd5qnKzeX3hjE0wZ05UG0uq8>

Copies of the questions for each book are attached.

B] In addition attached is a Multiple Choice packet (also available on the web <http://mdgottfried.net/apagenda/Test001-2018.pdf>) based on the course pre-requisites (honors biology and honors chemistry) which you can use to make sure your skill and knowledge base is up to the demands of AP Biology. There will be a web form for you to enter your answers and it can be reached at <http://mdgottfried.net/Forms/AP/Test001.html> or via a link from my main page.

C] Lastly, for the summer, I want you to write me a letter introducing yourself. We are going to spend a lot of time together next year, so I would like to get a head start on learning a bit about you. Also, we will use the Internet and the Web a lot next year for this course, so let's get you used to communicating with me via e-mail (I much prefer email to texts. I'm old. I know.)

Due BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS 8/20: E-mail me (Dr. Gottfried) a letter of introduction following these rules:

- Use clearly written, full sentences. Do not abbreviate words like you are texting with a friend (I am **well** over 50 years old, and I don't know what most of those abbreviations mean :). Use spell check! This is a professional communication similar to one you would have with a college professor, so let's practice for your rapidly nearing future!
- Address it to: <mailto:DrG.ATM@gmail.com>
- Make the Subject: "AP Bio: Introduction to <Insert Your Name Here>"  
(Do not include the quote marks or the brackets, just the words)
- Begin the e-mail with a formal salutation, like "Dear Dr. Gottfried,"
- Now introduce yourself (your name) and tell me a little bit about yourself, some possibilities:
  - What do you like to do (hobbies, sports, music, interests, etc.)?
  - Do you have a job or other significant time commitments outside of academics?
  - Was there anything that you liked about your earlier science classes?
  - What was the last book you read for fun?
- You should also include:
  - What are you looking forward to the most in AP Biology?
  - What are you most anxious or worried about in AP Biology?
  - Why did you sign up for AP Biology?
- End the e-mail with a formal closing: "Cordially", "Sincerely", "Warm regards", etc. and add your name as if you signed a letter.

C 3.5 –Not for a grade, but....As many of you know, I take pictures of my students. Sometimes, students don't like the way they look in my pictures. If you want to "pick your picture" send me a head-shot, renamed to the following rule:  
LastName\_FirstName.jpg

That's enough for now.

Sincerely, Dr. Gottfried

This letter is available, with "live" hyperlinks via my web page: <http://mdgottfried.net>