

2019 Participant Letter and Syllabus for Biology

Institute Overview

Welcome to the Advanced Placement Teacher Training Institute (APTTI). As you may know, the AP Biology program is changing this year with new Course and Exam Descriptions (CEDs) being released in May. The new CED's will go into effect in August and will be the course guide for the 2019-2020 exam. Included in the CEDs are 8 content units with suggestions of pacing (number of days) and the percent of coverage of each unit on the next exam. A much higher emphasis will be placed on the 6 science skills that are replacing the former 7 science practices. We will spend a great deal of time looking through CEDs. I think you will find the pacing suggestions and percentages of each content unit on the national exam very informative.

The 2020 AP national exam will have changes. Some of these include: dropping the grid-in questions, but having calculation questions in the multiple choice, having 18 points in 2 long essays, 16 points in 4 short essays and a master grading rubric for where all of the points will come from on each essay question. The essay exams will be evaluated on the application of the science skills rather than focusing on the memorization of content.

College Board is rolling out a class web site in August and we will learn about these although the web site will not yet be active at the time of our APSI. These will include: a test bank (multiple choice and essay questions) with filters for choosing test questions, personal progress reports, and early enrollment features for the 2020 national exam. The early enrollment for the national exam will be a hot topic for discussion and you need to understand the goals behind this move by College Board and how it will affect your students and your school.

These changes and information are scheduled to cover approximately 2/3 of our time. I will be using as much time as possible to cover the labs. The AP program requires 2 labs from each of the 4 big ideas, or 8 labs total. We'll cover at least that many labs and hopefully a few more.

Bring copies of your best activities, lessons and labs to share and we'll all benefit from each other's experiences and knowledge. The APSI session is for all levels of experience and everyone should benefit from the new CEDs and other materials.



Consultant Background

Jeff Smith, Ph.D.

I have B.S. and M.S. in Botany from Miami University (Ohio) and a Ph.D in Botany from the University of Oklahoma. I was an AP Biology teacher at the Indiana Academy for Science, Mathematics and Humanities with over 20 years of experience. I have had 400+ students take the national exam. I am a Midwest regional consultant for AP Biology and Quantitative Skills in

Biology and have presented over 50 one-day training sessions in last 22 years. I have been teaching summer AP Institutes sessions for 25 years, training between 300-400 teachers. I have been an AP exam reader since 1996 and a table leader or question leader for many years. I've had the opportunity to present AP Biology workshops abroad in Taipei, Shanghai, Seoul and Guam. I've also written some of the multiple choice questions for ETS for the new website. I will bring all of these experiences and expertise to our session to share with you. I can be reached at jsmith4@bsu.edu if you have questions about the APSI session.

Institute Goals

I plan on providing you access to all of my AP Biology course materials including PowerPoint lectures, chapter objectives outlines and homework assignments (and grading rubrics), exams, my versions of the labs, additional labs, handouts and a variety of other "goodies". If possible, bring a laptop or other device with you so you can access these materials during the workshop on a flash drive. I will also have these materials set up on a Google Drive for your use.

You will receive a copy of the CEDs and other specific training materials as part of your APSI packets.