

Honors Biology Syllabus – Fall 2017

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Biology (Course Number: 33202X0)

Biology is the study of all life on Earth. Within this course, our study of biology will revolve around several interlocking big ideas: interactions between living things and their environment; biological molecules; cell structure; cell processes to maintain a stable environment, obtain energy, and to reproduce; the passing on of beneficial traits to future generations; changes in populations over time; as well as, the classification of and diversity of living things.

Prerequisite

None

Learning Goals and Objectives

The learning goals and objectives for this course are based on the NC Essential Standards for Biology which can be found on the attached sheet and through the link on the class webpage.

Pacing

- Ecology – 4 Weeks
- Molecular Biology – 2 Weeks
- Cells – 2 Weeks
- Cell Energy – 1 Week
- Molecular Genetics – 1.5 Weeks
- Heredity – 1.5 Weeks
- Biotechnology – 1 Week
- Evolution, Classification, & Diversity – 2 Weeks

Methods of Learning

This course will combine reading and writing assignments with hands-on discovery and reinforcement activities. Most of the activities will require students to work with another student or a small group of students.

Textbook

Miller & Levine Biology. Copyright © 2014 by Pearson Education Inc.

Science Fee

As with all science classes, there is a \$5.00 science fee, per county policy

Required Materials

- Composition Notebook
- Three ring binder
- Pens and pencils
- Suggested but not required: colored markers, colored pencils, and glue sticks.

Class Webpage

All materials such as: Power Points, class activities, and vocabulary quizlets can be found on the class webpage for Biology. You can also find the pacing guide, online textbook, related videos, and related websites on the class webpage.

Assessments

Besides daily writing assignments and class activities; there will be short, daily, warm-up reviews based upon the prior day's topic. There will also frequent vocabulary quizzes and seven common unit tests. Exact dates for these unit tests will be announced during class, several days prior to the day of the test. Students will receive a study guide and will be able to participate in a review session prior to each unit test.

Biology End of Course Exam (EOC)

At the end of the course, there will be a required state-made, multiple choice, final exam that will count 25% of the final course grade. The results of the EOC will be placed in your school file and included on your transcripts. Students must score a level III in order to be considered proficient.

Grading Procedures

Grading of assignments will be based upon correctness and not just upon completion. Students can keep up with their class grade via Power School, which will be updated by the end of Tuesday, each week. Each Wednesday, students will receive an unofficial progress report, so that they can examine their progress and track their strengths and weaknesses.

Category Weights

Various categories of assessments are weighted differently to reflect their levels of difficulty and to ensure students are held accountable for not only completing assigned work but also for actually learning the required concepts, as the class progresses. Category weights are as follows:

- Tests 50%
- Quizzes & Labs..... 35%
- Classwork & Homework 15%

Grading Scale

- 90 – 100 A
- 80 – 89 B
- 70 – 79 C
- 60 – 69 D
- 0 – 59 F

Homework Policy

Homework is due at the beginning of the class and is not to be done during class.

Missing Work Policy

If assignments are missed due to an “excused absence”, work must be made up within 10 days of returning to school. If the absence is due to an “unexcused absence”, work must be made up within 5 days of returning to school.

After-School Tutoring

Tutoring will be available, after school, on Wednesday afternoons. If you desire extra help, please speak with me to set up a separate tutoring session during a mutually agreeable time.

Absence Policy

As per school policy, only 5 absences are allowed, whether they are excused or non-excused. All work missed, due to an absence, must be made up within 10 days, per county policy. However, it is strongly recommended that students make up the work as soon as possible so they can get back on track more quickly.

Tardy Policy

As per school policy, the classroom door will be locked as soon as the bell finishes ringing. Students will then need an admittance slip from guidance before they can enter the classroom.

Lab Safety Policy

While science labs can be a fun way to learn, they can also present some dangers when students view and treat lab time as a play time. We will be working with some materials that can cause harm if not handled properly. Therefore, when completing labs, safety comes first.

All students and their parent's/guardians must sign a Lab Safety Contract before any student can take part in a lab. Students are expected to follow all specified safety procedures and lab rules. Students caught "playing around" will result in students being removed from the lab setting and parent notification.

Restroom Policy

No restroom passes will be allowed during the first and last 10 minutes of class. Students will have 8 bathroom passes to use throughout the semester, but they will need to leave their phone in the classroom.

Cell Phone Policy

Per school policy, cell phones are not to be seen or heard during class, unless a particular lesson utilizes cell phones as part of the instruction method. **Students may not charge their phones during class.**

Class Rules

1. Be on time, on task, and prepared to learn each day.
2. Respect the teacher, the classroom, other students, and yourself.
3. Be responsible for your own learning.
4. Clean up after yourself.
5. Keep all personal electronics out away.

Consequences

1. Verbal warning
2. Parent Contact
3. After School Detention
4. Office Referral

Extra Resources for Students

Students should visit the Wheatmore Science website for additional resources including instructional videos that have been created by Wheatmore High School science teachers.

Teacher Contact

Students may email me at any time during the semester. There is an email button on top of the class webpage. It is my greatest desire to do whatever I can to help you succeed in this class. Please feel free to email or drop by with any concerns you may have.