



Standard Biology Course Syllabus



I. CONTACT INFORMATION

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II. COURSE OVERVIEW

Unit 0: Becoming a Biologist

Unit 4A: Cell Structure and Function

Unit 6: Patterns of Inheritance

Unit 8: Evolution

Unit 1: Ecology

Unit 4B: Cell Division and Cancer

Unit 7: Genetic Technology and Ethics

Unit 9: Classification

Unit 2: Biochemistry

Unit 5: Molecular Genetics

Focus Week: Bacteria and Viruses

Unit 10: Anatomy and Physiology

Unit 3: Energy Transformations

III. COURSE MATERIALS

- Biology eText (Miller & Levine)
- Biology Course Pack
- 3-Ring Binder
- Spiral Notebook or Loose-leaf Paper
- Carbon Copy Lab Notebook
- Pencils and Pens
- Calculator
- Markers or Colored Pencils

IV. GRADING

1. Grade Breakdown

Your grade in the course will be composed of:

Assessments (60%), Labs and Activities (30%), and Homework (10%)

Homework assignments will be checked in during class on a regular basis. Each HW check is worth 1 point – all or nothing. No partial credit is awarded for incomplete work. You will receive one cumulative HW grade per week, reflecting the completion of all assignments from that week.

Your grade in this class should reflect your mastery of the learning targets. Student achievement is assessed through summative assessments in the form of tests and/or lab reports. Therefore, your grade will be comprised mostly of summative assessments that test your mastery of the biology learning targets.

Your current grade in Schoology will be your in-progress semester grade. At the end of the semester, I will round semester grades 0.5 and above.

2. Late Work

If you are absent from class, you will have X+1 days to submit your missing assignment(s) and still receive full credit. "X" is the number of days you were absent. *For example: if you miss class on Monday, you will submit your homework from Monday and Tuesday on Wednesday.* This policy does not apply to lab reports. Lab reports must be submitted the day you return to class unless other arrangements have been made. Late lab reports submitted AFTER I have graded and passed back labs will receive a "0."

Excluding HW checks, I accept late assignments for partial credit. For each day the assignment is submitted late, there will be a 10% deduction (capped at a 50% deduction). **The last day to turn in an assignment is the day of the unit test that pertains to that material.**

For all assignments, you may use a late work coupon if you do not complete the assignment on time. These coupons are to be stapled to the late assignment when you turn it in to me. A new coupon sheet will be handed out at the start of second semester. See the coupon sheet for further details.

V. COURSE EXPECTATIONS

1. During class...

In general, be prompt, prepared, engaged, and safe!

2. During labs...

Follow all safety guidelines outlined in the safety contract. Your safety is the #1 priority!

You are required to maintain a carbon-copy lab notebook that follows the guidelines reviewed in class. There will be a lab notebook quiz at the end of every quarter. You are accountable for every lab covered on each lab notebook quiz. If you miss a lab, notify me the day you return to school. We will schedule a time for the lab makeup or discuss a possible alternative to a lab makeup.

3. Academic Dishonesty

Your work in this course should accurately reflect your level of understanding. Academic dishonesty on any assignment (homework, labs, tests, etc.) is NOT tolerated and may result in a zero for that assignment. Policies outlined in the student handbook apply to issues of academic dishonesty.

4. Absences and Tardies

Absences: It is your responsibility to see me upon your return to get missing assignments.

Tardies: If you have 3 unauthorized tardies per semester, a behavioral referral will be given and a detention will be served.

5. Getting Help

It's okay if a concept does not "click" for you right away! If you need extra help, you can visit the ARC or arrange an appointment with me. The best way to reach me is through email – I will do my best to respond within 24 hours.

I look forward to a great year!

