



Ruben S. Ayala High School - Science Department
Biology Honors Course Requirements
Ms. Syiem

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Room: B124

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Biology Honors. It is an exciting time in education as we transition into Common Core and we begin to explore the Next Generation Science Standards. The major concepts that will be covered in this course are cell biology, genetics, ecology, evolution, and physiology. We will also focus on the ability to transfer knowledge and skills to different situations and under different conditions. A student who can solve a problem in a math class, for example, should be able to recognize and solve the same kind of problem in a science class. Furthermore, students should be able to clearly communicate what they have learned, especially in writing.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Participate in experiments and activities in class
- Completion of assignments or activities given as homework
- Be responsible for making up and turning in various classwork, homework, activities, tests, quizzes, and labs
- Have all the materials needed for class every day
- Be in your assigned seat and ready to learn when the bell rings

RULES:

1. **BE SAFE AT ALL TIMES!!**: Safety is a key component of successful science.
 - ⊗ Any/all students found participating in unsafe behavior will be immediately removed from the class and will face further disciplinary actions.
2. **Respect** all living and non-living things in this classroom.
 - ⊗ Treat others and their property how you would like you and your things treated.
3. **Follow** all safety rules and procedures.
 - ⊗ Both in the classroom and during a lab
 - ⊗ No food or drink. Water with a lid is ok.
4. **Speak** at appropriate times with the respectful language and voice.
 - ⊗ Shouting across the room will not be tolerated.
 - ⊗ **Respect in words = NO cursing, NO put-downs, NO vulgar humor.**
5. **Do Your Own Work**...which means not cheating!
 - ⊗ Students caught cheating will immediately receive a **ZERO**.
 - ⊗ Cheating is copying another students' work **OR** allowing another student to copy your work.
 - ⊗ Think of it this way...would you want the brain surgeon who cheated their way through med school, or the one who worked hard??
6. **Ask Questions!** Questions are the key to curiosity!

CONSEQUENCES:

1. Warning.
2. 1-on-1 Conference
3. Parent contact
4. Parent-Teacher conference.
5. Referral

Remember, there are certain violations of school rules that necessitate immediate detention or immediate referral

** (ex. cursing at a teacher, fighting, etc) **

MATERIALS:

Each day you should bring to class:

A **college-ruled** composition notebook, binder (or section in a binder) lined notebook paper, black or blue pens, pencils, colored pencils, calculator.

- Composition Notebook – for notes and assignments, as specified
- Binder – for lab reports

It is required that you keep your composition notebook and binder up to date and in an organized manner. **ALL** work must have a name, date, and title. It should appear in chronological order and in the proper sections. Notebooks and binders will also be graded periodically on neatness, completeness, and organization. The first check will be set up per instructions and will be announced. Other checks may be announced or unannounced. If you lose your notebook or binder, you **MUST REDO THE ASSIGNMENTS AND NOTES FOR THE CURRENT UNIT TO RECEIVE CREDIT.**

COURSEWORK

Each unit of study will require a combination of vocabulary, lab work, worksheets, lecture & reading notes, online self-assessments, and evaluation of progress by tests and quizzes. All tests will be announced while quizzes may be both announced and unannounced. Make sure to keep homework, labs, and old quizzes/tests, etc for future reference. Science is cumulative, so keep your resources!

COURSE AGENDA

Students will be informed through weekly updates and on my website. It is the responsibility of the student to know all due dates for course work as outlined in the weekly update. It is hoped that this will assist the student in keeping up with coursework in an organized and timely manner.

STANDARDS

This honors course is designed to be challenging and rigorous. The Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) have been adopted by California, however finalization and implementation is in progress. We will examine these in relation to the knowledge-based CA content standards.

GRADING – Grades will be based on accumulated points using the following scale:

A = 100%-90% B = 80-89% C = 70-79% D = 60-69% F = Below 59%

Grades will be determined by the following categories and weighted accordingly:

Assessments	60%
Labs & Projects	25%
Homework & Classwork	10%
Participation	5%

- All students will take a final exam each semester. Laboratory skills will also be assessed in a separate final exam.
- Grades will be posted online and will be updated frequently. It is your responsibility to check your grade and bring any discrepancies to my attention immediately. This is one reason you are required to keep all returned work. It is the students' responsibility to obtain log in information from the attendance office.
- Limited extra credit opportunities will be announced. We have also been known to offer surprise or hidden "Easter egg" extra credit opportunities designed to reward G.R.E.A.T. behavior or curious and creative minds taking initiative.

RENAISSANCE REWARD CARDS

We will accept one homework pass and oops pass each semester. Both will allow you to turn in most assignments one day late (any dissection lab is exempt). We will accept one of these Oops/HW passes at the end of each semester earning 20 points extra credit in homework. Students possessing a gold card and **NO**

MISSING ASSIGNMENTS are eligible for a 1.5% semester grade boost.

PROJECTS & LABS

There will be several projects and labs throughout the semester, including a major Biology project. Students will work with a lab partner and additional guidelines will be given during the semester.

ATTENDANCE AND MAKE-UP WORK

Experience has shown that students who have regular attendance and complete all assignments have a successful year. ***NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR CREDIT EXCEPT FOR EXCUSED ABSENCES*** (unless accompanied by an oops pass or HW pass; see Renaissance Rewards for details).

- If you are absent and it is excused, it is **your responsibility** to turn in make-up work within the number of equal to how many days you have an EXCUSED absence. Ex: if you are absent 2 days and excused, you have 2 days to turn in homework and/or make up quizzes/tests.
- Failure to complete missed work in a timely manner will result in a zero.
- Makeup tests must be taken immediately upon returning to school when absent, unless arrangements are made **IN ADVANCE IN WRITING**. **YOU** are responsible to make up quizzes and tests.
- As labs are an essential part of the science curriculum, often requiring multiple participants or specialized equipment and materials, arrangements must be made to complete labs within one week of the laboratory date. Failure to complete a lab within one week may result in a ZERO for that assignment. **It is the student's responsibility to schedule time to make up the lab.**
- We stamp papers for a variety of reasons. Occasionally, stamps are earned for class preparation/participation. Therefore, some stamps missed are forfeit due to any absence, whether excused or not. WE WILL NOT issue missed stamps during class.
- Students missing class for an on-campus activity MUST turn in homework the day it is due. Homework received by the end of the day will receive full credit.

AMP

- **BEGINNING CLASS.** Each day students will be asked to WRITE at the beginning of each class. There will be a prompt or question that will require a 5-sentence paragraph (minimum) to receive credit. AMPs must be written in complete sentences or if it is problem solving, all of the steps required to receive credit. Students will keep each AMP in their notebook and it will be graded on a daily basis. AMPs due to absences, for any reason, may not be made up.

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

- **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND HONESTY ARE EXPECTED AT ALL TIMES.** Cheating in any form is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Students are expected to be familiar with the school's policies on what constitutes cheating and the repercussions that will follow violations of said policies.
- The classroom is a shared environment. In order to maintain a productive, positive atmosphere, each student are expected to **SHOW RESPECT TO ALL PERSONS AND ALL PROPERTY AT ALL TIMES.** Failure to do so will warrant a warning, then detentions and parent contact if the problem persists.
- **ALL CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES SHOULD BE TURNED OFF UPON ENTERING THE CLASSROOM.** Unapproved electronics being used during class will be confiscated
- **NO FOOD, DRINK OR GUM** is allowed in the science classroom.
- **BATHROOM PASSES.** Students will receive 3 bathroom passes per SEMESTER.
- Common courtesy dictates that **hats are to be removed indoors.**
- Students are asked to **remain in their seats until the dismissal bell has rung.**
- **TARDY POLICY:** Students are expected to be **in their seats** when the tardy bell rings. The school tardy policy as outlined in the student handbook will be enforced. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with this policy.
- **DRESS CODE:** School dress code will be enforced.

I look forward to an exciting and rewarding school year with your student. Thank you!

Miss Syiem

The instructor reserves the right to make additions, changes, and deletions to the syllabus during the course of the year.