



**Ruben S. Ayala High School - Science Department**  
**Biology Living Earth Course Requirements**  
**Mr. Ullmann 2020-2021**

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Room: S102

## **INTRODUCTION**

Welcome to Biology Living Earth! It is an exciting time in education as we begin to explore the Next Generation Science Standards. These standards push thinking further and allow students to become 21<sup>st</sup> century thinkers. This year we will have six different units of interest broken over 2 semesters:

### Semester 1

Unit 0: Basic Science Skills

Unit 1: Ecosystem Interaction and Energy

Unit 2: Structure, Function, Growth

Unit 3: History of Earth's Atmosphere/ Photosynthesis & Respiration

### Semester 2

Unit 4: Evolution

Unit 5: Inheritance of Traits

Unit 6: Ecosystem Stability

Notice that we begin the year with ecology and end the year with ecology. The idea is that we move full circle in our biological lessons. Units are meant to add on to one another and create a systematic story that enhances our ability to observe and make sense of the biological world around us!

Students should be able to clearly communicate what they have learned, especially in writing. You should be prepared for many presentations, group work, labs, and scientific debates/arguments.

## **REQUIREMENTS:**

- Participate in experiments and activities in class or online
- Completion of assignments or activities given as homework
- Wear closed toe shoes and be PREPARED for lab days (when we can return to school)
- 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 **BEFORE** the bell rings
- **Access to computer, Google classroom, working video + speaker functions on computer.**

## **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.

## COURSE AGENDA

Students will be informed through weekly updates. 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. **AGENDA WILL BE POSTED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE WEEK ON GOOGLE CLASSROOM. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO READ IT. It will also be posted in the classroom.**

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

A+ ≥ 98%	C = 73.00-76.99%
A = 93.00-97.99%	C- = 70.00-72.99%
A - = 90.00-92.99%	D+ = 67.0-69.58%
B+ = 87.0-89.99%	D = 63.00-66.99%
B = 83.00-86.99%	D- = 60.00-62.99%
B- = 80.00-82.99%	F ≤ 59.99%
C+ = 77.00-79.99%	

\*Grades may be rounded up if no missing assignments are present, good attitude/participation is seen in class, and attendance is regular. Do not rely on this! Earn the grade you want to receive!

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

Assessments(Exams, quizzes, projects)	60%
Labs (any assignment Lab related)	20%
Homework/Participation/Notebook Checks	20%

- All students will take a final exam each semester.
- Grades will be posted online and will be updated bi-weekly. It is your responsibility to check your grade and bring to my attention any discrepancies immediately. This is one reason you should keep all old work. Mistakes can happen and your corrected paper is evidence to prove you turned in the assignment.
- Limited extra credit opportunities will be announced.

## Notebook Checks

Since we are not able to start the year in person I still want you to take notes ON PAPER. I would recommend a spiral or composition notebook. It will be a great way to keep track of all your notes. Create a table of contents to keep things organized. Notes do not have to be copied word for word but I expect to see the majority of information recorded in your notebook in your OWN writing. The PowerPoints will explain what to write down at times. Notes will most often be assigned for homework and we will review material in class. You must sign each page of your notebook before submitting your notes to Google classroom for points. I may or may not announce when notebook checks are so be prepared!

***Late work will only be accepted within the current unit of study for 50% credit.***

**ONLY EXCUSED ABSENT WORK ACCEPTED FOR FULL CREDIT.**

- If you are absent and it is excused, it is **your responsibility** to turn in make-up work. TALK TO ME AFTER CLASS/OFFICE HOURS/EMAIL.

- Failure to complete missed work in a timely manner will result in a zero.
- Quizzes and Exams must be taken within 1 week of an absence. IT IS THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO SCHEDULE MAKE-UP TESTS AND QUIZZES.

## 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.
- **BEGINNING CLASS.** Most days we will have a warm up that will be completed in your notebook. I will then have you go into breakout rooms to discuss for a few minutes. We will then come back to the main breakout room and go over answers. This will all be explained in class.
- Daily class instruction will include direct instruction, group work, and individual work.
- All work will be submitted via Google classroom.
- Feedback will be given through Google classroom and grades for assignments will be posted on Google classroom and Aeries.
- Grades for assignments will be based on completion, effort, and correctness. Grading criteria for assignments will be explained in class.
- I expect students to be academically responsible at all times. Most exams will be open note this year. There will be announced and unannounced quizzes.
- The classroom is a shared environment. In order to maintain a productive, positive atmosphere. Each student will be expected to **SHOW RESPECT TO ALL PERSONS AND ALL PROPERTY AT ALL TIMES.** Failure to do so will result in a warning and then getting kicked out the Google meet, parent contact, and proper disciplinary action.
- **ALL CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES SHOULD BE TURNED OFF AND PUT AWAY UPON ENTERING THE CLASSROOM.** Put your phones away during online lessons. It will only make the class harder if your attention is elsewhere.
- **Attendance:** Students are expected to be **logged in by the start time of the period.** Attendance will be taken at the beginning AND end of class when I see you via Google meet. **ON DAYS I DO NOT SEE YOU THERE WILL BE AN ASSIGNMENT OR QUESTION ON MY GOOGLE CLASSROOM.** Please see agenda at beginning of the week for more details.
- **OFFICE HOURS-** see Ayala school website for office hours
- Most days we will have a warm up that will be completed in your notebook. I will then have you go into breakout rooms to discuss for a few minutes. We will then come back to the main breakout room and go over answers. This will all be explained in class.

**I look forward to an exciting and rewarding school year! Thank you!**

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