

FORSYTH COUNTY COURSE SYLLABUS 2017-2018

COURSE TITLE: On-Level Biology	
TEACHER NAME: Cathy Bagdonis	E-MAIL: cbagdonis@forsyth.k12.ga.us
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Course Description: The Biology curriculum is designed to continue student investigations of the life sciences that began in grades K-8 and provide students the necessary skills to be proficient in biology. This curriculum includes more abstract concepts such as the interdependence of organisms, the relationship of matter, energy, and organization in living systems, the behavior of organisms, and biological evolution. Students investigate biological concepts through experience in laboratories and field work using the processes of inquiry.

The state mandated Georgia Milestones End of Course Assessment is required and counts 20% of the student's overall course grade.

Standards: Course Standards can be found at - <https://www.georgiastandards.org/Georgia-Standards/Pages/Science.aspx>

Learning Resources/Textbook(s): With the emergence of technology as a tool for learning, South Forsyth High School will be utilizing various resources to assist with instruction, including ItsLearning, and interactive websites. In addition to these web based instructional tools, this course will also have a classroom set of textbooks. Should you feel that your child would benefit from having a textbook at home in addition to the classroom textbook, please contact your child's teacher.

Nowicki, Stephen. McDougal Littell Biology, 2008. Houghton Mifflin Company, Canada.
ISBN-13: 978-0-618-88830-6

Required Assignments: There will be at least 10 unit tests during the course as well as various performance based assessments that require writing, research, and creativity. The number of formative and summative grades such as lab reports, article abstracts, quizzes, homework, projects, etc. will be determined along the course of the school year.

Availability for Extra Help: I am available during Instructional Focus on Wednesday's (this is a GREAT time for small group help; ask me for a pass!), Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 7:45 – 8:15am, or other times by appointment.

Makeup Work: Make up work is defined as work assigned during a student's absence, not work assigned prior to an absence. The student has five (5) school days upon returning to school to complete make-up work. The teacher has the discretion to grant a longer period to make up work, if there are extenuating circumstances.

This does not include major projects, research papers, etc., where the deadline has been posted in advance.

All missed work and assessments are the responsibility of the student when they are absent from school. A student who is absent on the class day before a regularly scheduled assessment will be responsible for completing the assignment on the regularly scheduled day and time.

Grading Calculations:

EOC Course Average = 40% (1st Sem. Course Work) + 40% (2nd Sem. Course Work) + 20% EOC
1st & 2nd Semester Course Work = 75% Summative + 25% Formative

Non-EOC Course Average = 50% (1st Sem. Course Work) + 50% (2nd Sem. Course Work)

1st and 2nd Semester Course Work = 75% Summative + 25% Formative

Concept of formative assessment: <http://pareonline.net/getvn.asp?v=8&n=9>

Grading Policy:

A = 90 – 100

B = 80 – 89

C = 70 – 79

Failing = Below 70

**Formative Assessments include, but are not limited to homework, class work, practice tests, rough drafts, and sections of projects/ research papers/presentations.*

**Summative Assessments include, but are not limited to unit tests, final projects, final essays, final research papers, and final presentations.*