Biology I CP Syllabus

2017-2018

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“*Good science is done by being curious in general, by asking questions all around, by acknowledging the likelihood of being wrong and taking this in good humor for granted, by having a deep fondness for nature and by being made jumpy and nervous by ignorance” – Lewis Thomas*

The atmosphere in this classroom will be formal and academic, but comfortable.

Students will work hard, learn biology and enjoy the process of learning how to answer questions, look for answers and solve problems.

**Classroom Expectations:**

* **100 % Responsibility & Accountability**
* Attend class and arrive on time
* Have materials ready when the bell rings
* Listen when others are speaking
* Stay on-task and focused on biology
* No side conversations
* No cheating
* Do all your work
* Do your best

**Academic Expectations:**

* **100% Responsibility and Accountability**
* Come to class on time and have materials ready when the bell rings
* Follow teacher’s directions and complete assignments
* To achieve an 85% or greater on core biological concept assessments
* Become better prepared for your collegiate biology experience and collegiate careers
* Work hard and enjoy the process
* Do your best

I truly believe in your potential and I want you to believe in it too.

Let’s have an amazing year!!!

Mr. Aitken

**Classroom’s Rules are posted in the classroom:**

* Rule of thumb- **100% Responsible and Accountable** and many rules take care of themselves #100
* Rule #1- **Clean up** your mess and push chairs up. Trash goes in the trashcan. #**notyourmom**
* Rule #2- Cell phones **cannot** be charged in the lab outlets **#xcharging**
* Special Guideline- This is a No Whining Zone. Everything I do is in your best interest, so please refrain from whining.

**Rule Infraction Notice**

* 1st Warning
* 2nd Two minutes after class and written documentation (guideline infraction notice )
* 3rd Disciplinary referral
* Severe clause- Any extreme circumstances (e.g., fighting, cursing, damaging school property of the teacher and other students or is disrespectful (as defined by teacher, e.g., refusal to comply with procedures and guidelines) automatic referral to office

**Rewards**

* Sincere verbal acknowledgement
* Hand written notes
* Stress free work environment
* Classroom environment efficient for success
* Biobucks

**Supplies**

* Composition book + Folder **or** binder for keeping graded papers

**Lab Fee**

* In effort to create an enriched hands-on learning environment, a 5 dollar lab per student is required to cover the costs of materials and reagents used throughout the year.

**Grading Scale**

* 93-100 = A
* 92-85 = B
* 84-75 = C
* 74-70 = D
* 69 and below = F

**Grading Structure**

* Assignments will be differentiated on a point based system where all work carries a certain # of points. An example of a possible breakdown is below:
1. Quizzes typically 50-100pts
2. In class assignments 15-50 pts
3. Projects 50-100 pts
4. Exams 100+ pts

**Exams**

* One to three exams will be given during each nine weeks as a means to assess understanding and comprehension of the material. All exams will be cumulative and become increasingly lengthy and to insure that previous material covered is not forgotten for the end of course exam.

**Mini Labs and Hands-on Activities**

* A good biologist must develop good lab techniques, an understanding of the scientific methodology, the ability to ask appropriate questions, and the ability to write a good lab report. Throughout the year we will do multiple labs and hands-on activities that will give you valuable hands on experience. This experience will help you develop your own conclusions and also gain a greater understanding and appreciation for biology and the scientific way of thinking.

**Lab Reports and Presentations**

* Lab Reports and/or Presentations will be required on certain lab activities. Communication and the ability to adequately communicate your ideas and conclusions both verbally and in writing **(always typed)** are becoming increasingly important in our data driven world.
* **NOTE** Lab Reports and/or Presentations number and requirements will be subject to change at the teacher’s discretion.

**Quizzes**

* Quizzes will be taken nearly **EVERYDAY**!!! Quizzes will cover material from the previous day as well as material from previous lectures in the corresponding chapter.

**Homework and Class Work**

* Homework will be given to reinforce topics and discussions in class.
* Homework will be given in small increments and is not meant to overwhelm the student with senseless busywork, but on an as needed basis.
* I have found most “Homework” I give could have been completed in class

**Tentative Schedule**

* 1st nine weeks- Scientific Method, Ecology & Evolution
* 2nd nine weeks- Cellular Mechanics
* 3rd nine weeks- Cells & Genetics
* 4th nine weeks- Applied Genetics

**Extra Credit**

* **ALL assignments** must be turned in before extra credit will be received
* The first extra credit must be to design a Coat of Arms describing yourself and presenting to the class what the pictures mean as outlined in the paper (50points)
* If student is not missing assignment and completed Coat of Arms and presentation, then student is able to choose from a number of options of extra credit opportunities in my extra credit packet guide found by my bulletin board. A maximum of 50 extra credit points can be submitted per 9 weeks under the guide of the extra credit packet.
* I reserve the right to refuse extra credit to anyone who does not submit a report under these guideline

**Make up Work**

My make-up policy is designed to help you get the most out of any missed class as efficiently as possible and to ensure fairness for students who were in attendance. I do not want or will accept a student trying to make up all missing work right before 9 weeks ends. As such, a cut-off date for late work will be given at beginning of each 9 weeks. As a general rule of thumb, a student will have up to one week to make up missed assignment without penalty (see details below) and after the one week period a 10% penalty will be enforced each day until it is completed.

 **If You Missed a Daily Quiz/Quizzes**

* If absent and a quiz was missed (which it probably was), the student will take the quiz that others are taking that day. This is to insure a fairness for other students and to prevent answers from previous quizzes getting out. **Also grades taken on the quiz taken will be used as score for missed quiz or quizzes.**
* Student can only come before or after school to make up missed quiz **within one week** of their initial absence.
* I will take whichever **quiz score is higher if done in the proper manner** as described above.
* **If excused,** (stamped, verified, and shown to me in agenda), student will take quiz missed and have one week to make up quiz missed or score received on the made up quiz will be taken.

**If You Missed an Exam**

* Absence must be excused, verified, stamped and shown to me before weight of penalty will be taken.
* If unexcused a 10% penalty will be deducted out of fairness of other students and to prevent answers and content from leaking out. Exam must be made up before or after school or will be taken in ISP the day student returns to class (cell phone will be left in the room as well)
* If excused, a 5% penalty will be deducted out of fairness of other students and to prevent answers and content from leaking out. Exam must be made up before or after school or will be taken in ISP the day student returns to class (cell phone will be left in the room as well)

**If You Missed an In-Class Assignment**

* If in-class assignment was a **group activity with trials or data** recorded, **student will forfeit 50%** of fairness for other students who did the work. Student will allowed to use group’s data.
* If in-class assignment was a film, lab, or group work with no data, student will have to write a **four page paper typed** on a topic at student’s discretion.
* If in-class assignment is a **reinforcement task sheet or questionnaire**, student will be allowed to make up with **no penalty** with a grace periodof **one week** after which, **a penalty of 10% per day** will be assessed.

By signing below, you agree to the terms listed above in the syllabus

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Student Name (Print)                                          Student signature

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Parent Name (print)                                               Parent Name (Signature)

Today’s DATE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_