

Course: Biology – Honors
Teacher: Mr. Whitmore
Email: daniel_whitmore@wrsd.net
Text: BSCS Biology – A Molecular Approach
Year: 2011-2012

Course Description:

The goal of this full year course is to prepare students with a foundation for college courses covering topics that incorporate all aspects of the living world. Hands-on laboratories and activities will be used in conjunction with lectures, class discussions, and group work to produce a learning environment that focuses on active participation on behalf of every student. Students taking this course must have a high level of reading comprehension as well as a strong mathematical background. The main topics covered in the course are the Scientific Method, the Chemistry of Life, Cell Biology, Genetics, Anatomy and Physiology, Evolution and Biodiversity, and Ecology. **A yearlong independent research project focused on life science is required for an Honors level course. Failure to submit an approved project idea, hypothesis, and Literature Review will result in a drop of level to CP-A. Students must present a Final project that consists of a project board, a formal write-up, and an oral presentation. The Final Project is worth 50% of the 4th quarter grade and 10% of the year-end grade. Late projects WILL NOT be accepted for any reason.**

Grading:

All assignments, labs, tests, and quizzes will be graded using a points system using the following guidelines:

1. Each student must take notes in a three-ring binder (Filled with white lined paper) that will also be used for handouts, lab reports, and in-class work. Every student must bring their three-ring binder, textbook, white-lined paper, pen, pencil, and calculator to class EVERY DAY. Being prepared for each class with all materials present is the foundation for a high average grade.
2. **Chapter tests** will always be announced after ample time for review of material and questions. Tests incorporate class notes, textbook readings, information from class handouts, laboratory work, projects, and class discussions. Tests generally consist of multiple choice, true-false, short-answer, and problem solving questions. Absence on the day of the test will require the student to take a make-up test immediately upon return to school. Students who miss the test review will be given an extra day to prepare for the test. Tests are generally worth 100 points, but may vary to match accordingly with the amount of material covered.
3. **Quizzes** may be announced or unannounced and are worth between 5 and 50 points.
4. **Lab reports** consist of formal, written reports and short answer response reports focused on material comprehension. Lab reports are worth between 20 and 100 points.
5. **Class work** consists of worksheets, class projects, and any other work completed in class or finished for homework. They are worth between 5 and 100 points depending on amount of time and effort dedicated to the assignment.
6. **Homework** is assigned and checked consistently. Homework is intended to reinforce material covered in class and to allow students to put what they have learned into practice. Not all homework assignments are graded, but are

consistently checked for completion and accuracy. Completion of homework assignments is vital for comprehension of material and will allow students to actively participate in class discussions. If you are absent, you are still responsible for finding out what the assignment is from a classmate and it should be completed by the start of class upon your return to school. In addition to assigned problem sets, worksheets, and readings, class notes should be reviewed as nightly homework to prepare for unannounced quizzes.

"The WRHS Science Department believes that homework is necessary to help our students achieve at the high academic level necessary for college preparation. Schoolwork done outside of classtime provides training in study habits, skills and discipline; it reinforces and increases background knowledge and conceptual understanding, and it provides experiences in problem solving and self monitoring. In particular, it provides students with an opportunity for them to take personal responsibility for their own achievement."

*Each of the graded categories above will be given between 5-100 points. Grades are calculated by dividing the total points received on work by the total number of points possible for each graded item.

Notes:

- All homework assignments, lab reports, and projects are due on the scheduled day. Assignments turned in one day late will be reduced by one letter grade. Two days late will result in a 50% reduction in grade. Assignments handed in more than two days late will not receive a grade.
- Work completed in red pen will not be accepted.
- All work must be legible or it will be marked as incorrect.

Cheating and Plagiarism:

Students caught giving or receiving answers for any work will be given a zero for that work and their parents will be notified. No exceptions will be made.

Absences:

Class attendance follows WRHS policy. Every effort should be made to attend every class. Absences cause student's to fall behind in course material, which can be detrimental to their grade. It is the student's responsibility to make-up missed assignments and class material. If a student is absent the day an assignment is due, they should turn it in no later than the start of class the day they return to school. Assignments turned in after the start of class will be considered late. Missed labs must be made up within one week of the lab or the student will receive a zero for the lab. Make-up labs must be scheduled with me when the student returns to school.

I will be available for make-ups and for extra help after school in room D116. I will announce what day(s) I will be available on a weekly basis. I can be contacted via the email address found above or by calling the school (508-829-6771).

Please read the attached Laboratory Safety Rules and then sign, date, and return the Acknowledgment Page to Mr. Whitmore.

Acknowledgement Page

I acknowledge having received and understand the terms outlined in the **Honors Biology Syllabus**, as well as the **Laboratory Safety Rules** and agree to abide by all rules and expectations as set forth.

Please sign, date, and return to Mr. Whitmore

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____