



HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL BIOLOGY COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor: Mrs. Mitchell
Phone #: 480-883-5147

Room: D210
E-mail: mitchell.tricia@cusd80.com

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Biology is a laboratory science class that explores all types of life and living things. Biology is an AIMS tested subject in Arizona. **Due to this focus and the desire for all students to achieve on the exam, I will be rigorous in the way this class is approached.** We will begin right away learning curriculum and focusing the work ethic and behavior on the topic at hand. The class will be challenging but fun. We are learning a curriculum that is diverse and multilevel. This class has a strong demand for “hands on” types of experiments and activities. We will be performing as many labs as possible using the scientific method as our guide. With your hard work, dedication, and desire to achieve, I am certain that you will do well in class and on the Science AIMS.

Year Plan:

Use of the scientific method will be a focus throughout the school year.

Semester One

Quarter 1: AIMS TESTED

Characteristics of Life
Chemistry of Life
Cells
DNA
Meiosis/Mitosis

Semester Two

Quarter 3: AIMS TESTED

Classification of Organisms
Populations and Ecosystems
Communities
Environment
Viruses/Bacteria

Quarter 2: AIMS TESTED

Heredity
Protein Synthesis
History of Life
Evolution and Natural Selection

Quarter 4: NOT AIMS TESTED

Continue Viruses/Bacteria
Protists
Plants
Animals

Due to the importance of the AIMS exam, much of what we do in class will be structured for student success on the exam. The AIMS exam will be referenced often. Discipline will be strict. We have a time schedule and a lot to get done in a shortened amount of time. I expect complete cooperation by the student.

Class Rules:

- Follow the classroom procedures below:
 - Follow all school rules.**
 - Always follow directions.
 - Do not leave your seat without permission.
 - Raise your hand to ask a question or make a comment.
 - Do not speak while others are speaking.
- Respect the rights and property of others.
- No food, gum, drinks in class. (Water bottles are the only exception.) THIS IS A SCIENCE LAB!**
- No cell phones, radios, ipods or other electronic devices may be used in class. (They will be confiscated if used or seen and turned in to security.)**
*****Cell phones: if used, heard, or visible during test/quiz it is considered cheating. A zero will be recorded for that score and a referral written.**
- No profanity. Use polite social language in a school setting.
- Keep your hands, feet, and other objects to yourself.
- Follow the dress code.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. 3- ring binder
2. Colored pencils
3. Paper or notebook
4. Student planner/calendar (suggested)
5. Biology textbook. Students may have a book checked out to them to use at home.

GRADING POLICY:

90 - 100%	=	A
80 - 89%	=	B
70 - 79%	=	C
60 - 69%	=	D
Below 60%	=	No Credit

Grades for this course will be computed based on a weighted average of your scores in the following categories:

Assessments (Test and Quizzes)	=	60%
Labs/ Activities	=	20%
Classwork/Homework/Participation	=	20%

Semester grades will be calculated on a 40/40/20 formula.

First Term = 40% Second Term = 40% Final Exam = 20%

Absences / Homework:

- 1) If the student was present when an assignment was given, but absent the day the assignment is turned in, **the assignment will be due the day the student returns to school.**
- 2) If the student has an **excused** absence on the day an assignment is given, **it is the students' responsibility to retrieve the assignments** by checking the homework files or discussion with the teacher.
- 3) The student will have one day for each day that they are absent to make up the work.
- 4) If a student is absent during a lab, they may make up the lab after school during specified lab make-up times; however, I reserve the right to give an alternative assignment.
- 5) After 9 absences a student may be dropped from the class. (Please refer to student handbook for further information regarding absences).
- 6) Students must be in seat and working when bell rings. **If they have excessive tardies (3 or more) they will receive a parent phone call. Any tardies after this will result in a referral or teacher consequence.**
- 7) Penalties for late assignments:
 - a. One day late: 10% off the assessed grade
 - b. Up to five days late: 50% credit of total points.
- 8) Policies for late work:
 - No late work will be accepted 5 days after the due date
 - No late work will be accepted the last two weeks of the semester
- 9) In many activities in science class students will work with a partner or cooperatively in a team. However, all assignments are to be completed individually and must be the students own original work. Students will be assigned individual grades for work that reflects their learning in science class. If plagiarism does occur each student involved will receive a zero on the assignment. (Please refer to the online HHS student handbook for further information on plagiarism and its consequences)

Excessive Absences

A.R.S. §15-803 (B) states that absences may be considered excessive when the number of absent days exceeds ten percent of the number of required attendance days prescribed in A.R.S. §15-802. Ten percent equates to nine (9) days of absences per semester regardless of whether they are excused or unexcused. Students with excessive excused absences will be required to provide medical documentation to remain in class and excuse any further absences. If additional absences occur, and medical documentation is not provided, the student will be referred to administration.

Teacher Help:

I will be on campus most days by 7:00am and can be available after school, by appointment. My scheduled tutoring times are Monday afternoons (3:10-3:40) and Tuesday mornings (6:55-7:20). This is a great opportunity to ask questions, pick up make up work, and get extra help.

In addition, we have a Core Biology tutoring schedule that will be provided to all Bio students. There are five of us and we will be available to all Core Biology students in the locations and dates and times specified. If you need help on a day when I am not available, then please plan to see either of the other teachers at their assigned time. All are great and will be happy to help you with whatever you need.

To Contact Me:

I am always available by email at mitchell.tricia@cusd80.com or phone at 480-883-5147. You may check my webpage, by accessing it through the Hamilton website's teacher pages. Grades will be updated multiple times per week and can be accessed through infinite campus.

Parent Online Access: Infinite Campus is a logon website "Portal" where students or parents can access grades and class attendance. This will help you increase communication with your teachers. How to set up a parent account:

- * Step 1: Enter Your Email Address that you provided to your child's school
- * Step 2: Click Submit
- * Step 3: Open the email from **Campus No Reply - campus@smtp2.cusd80.com** (You may need to look in your spam or junk folder) and click on the link provided.
- * Step 4: After clicking on the link from the above step, you will enter in a password and then click Create My Account.
- * Step 5: [Login to the parent portal with your new account.](#)

Diversity Statement:

All individuals have a right to an educational environment free from bias, prejudice and bigotry. As members of the Hamilton High School educational community, students are expected to refrain from participation in acts of harassment that are designed to demean another student's race, gender, ethnicity, religious preference, disability or sexual orientation.

I encourage all of you to work to the best of your ability, be respectful, responsible, and accountable for your actions. In return, you can expect the same from me! If you should have any questions or concerns you may stop by before or after school, leave a message on voice mail or e-mail. **Please allow up to 24 hours for a response.**

I am very excited to have you as a student in my classroom! Please let me know what I can do for you and let's have a great year!!!