

Course Outline for Biology

(School Year 2009-2010 Edgewater High School, Orlando, Florida)

Instructor: Mr. M. Lopatka, AKA Mr. L Room 705 in EHS Science Building

Text Book: BIOLOGY- (1st edition) Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc. (\$65.00 if not returned)
www.ehsscience.com and www.ge.hrw.com

Phone / Contact: (407) 835-4900 x 4293 voice mail. Please wait for the voice mail "prompt" before entering the extension. Voice mail is promptly returned. I am usually available between 9:00am and 4:30pm. I prefer email as I can check it regularly - **Email:** lopatkm@ocps.net

Course Description: Biology is a curriculum intended for the college bound student. Each student will learn the subject of Biology, as well as proficient skills, such as critical thinking, creative thinking, reading recall and comprehension, writing, research, and presentation. Extensive emphasis will be placed on skills related to the FCAT test. This is intended to improve the student's high level thinking skills that are essential to the development of science literacy. Students can expect to cover approximately a chapter every week. FCAT and writing skills will be included within all topics.

1st. 9 weeks - Scientific Method, Chemistry of Life, Cell Structures and Processes (Chps. 1-5)

2nd. 9 weeks - Cell Reproduction, Genetics, (Chps. 6-11)

3rd. 9 weeks - Principle of Evolution, Classification of Organisms, Ecology/Environment, Diversity of Life (Chps. 12-19)

4th. 9 weeks - Exploring Plants, Exploring Animals, Human Biology (Chps. 23-29, 32-43)

Labs/Science Project: Major laboratory assignments will usually be conducted on a weekly basis. All students will be completing lab assignments in small groups of 2-3, with a single grade given to the group.

A science project is required from all students every nine weeks. The science project emphasizes many practical "real world" skills that the student will use in his or her college and/or professional careers.

Required Class Supplies: Three ring binder, notebook paper, graph paper, pencils, pens, 6 inch ruler, colored pencils, small (very cheap) pencil sharpener, a pencil pouch.

\$10.00 Lab money - Each student is asked for \$10.00 so that I may purchase lab materials that will be directly used to purchase consumable lab supplies for that student. Purchases are made in bulk from a supply company, and are used throughout the year by each student.

Class Survival Necessities:

- Maintain an accurate, chronological journal/notebook each day. Your notebook grade is determined by completeness, format, and neatness. This is a "give-me" grade, don't mess it up!
- Study hard and do all assignments so that you get passing grades on tests, lab work, quizzes, homework (another give-me grade) and in-class assignments. This requires work on your part.
- Be sure to make up all missed work, even if you are out for sickness, family emergencies, religious holidays etc. Remember we don't cancel class when you aren't there. It is **your** responsibility to get all missed assignments. Keep in mind, that if you make a 100 % on a test and add that to a 0 % for a missed test, your grade goes down to a 50 %. **Ouch!!**
- **Read, Read, and Read!** 10 minutes of reading every night. **Write, Write, and Write!** Questions or comments about what you've read.

Grading Assignment Weights

- Notebook: 250 points each nine weeks
- Labs: 15- 50 points
- Quizzes: 25 points
- Worksheets/Activities: 10-25 points
- Homework: 10-25 points

Grading Scale:

- 90-100% = A
- 80-89% = B
- 70-79% = C
- 60-69% = D
- Below 60% = F

(Grades are posted by a student number regularly, so students always know their current grade.)

Extra Credit: From time to time extra credit opportunities are offered. These involve watching biology related programs on TV and providing notes and a summary, summarizing biological news from magazines, papers etc., or working extra problems from the book. Extra credit is not a substitute for doing your class work and studying for tests. Extra credit is a means to bring a borderline grade, which a student has worked hard to get, "over- the- top". It is not a panacea that greatly changes a student's grade or stops a student from doing class work or learning Biology. Always ask me before doing extra credit; students that are missing assignments due to unexcused absences may not be eligible for extra credit.

Student Responsibilities:

1. Be in class, on time, in your seat with books, notebooks, and manors and prepared to learn Biology.
2. Take notes and do assignments during class!
3. NO Talking to friends after the tardy bell! Talking can be done at lunch, before or after school, etc. NOT in class.
4. NO cheating! Cheating may result in losing credit on your assignment and losing your chance of making Beta Club or National Honor Society.
5. NO violations of school policy!

Step-by-Step Disciplinary Action:

1. A friendly verbal reprimand in class.
2. Stay after class a minute or two to discuss problems with me.
3. A disciplinary note or phone call will be sent home to parents or legal guardians, signed and returned.
4. Afternoon detention to be served as assigned.
5. Further action will result in a referral to the office and a recommendation for suspension. By step four a student has been given several chances by myself and his or her parents to change their behavior without results.

Final Message:

Your time is valuable, DON'T waste it. Always respect the rights of others and ask lots of questions. It's a great way to find out what you want to know. During the school year, let me know if I can help you academically or personally. As a teacher and parent, I am here to help you anyway I can. Let my experiences help you grow towards success!

Parent Signature: _____

Phone numbers: _____

Phone numbers: _____

Special Accommodations: (medical conditions, learning difficulties, special family situations, etc.)
