

Biology 9 Class Syllabus

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Course Description

Biology is a challenging and diverse topic; best explored utilizing a variety of different instructional tools, including - but not limited to: interactive computer based technology, laboratory explorations, active class discussion, and extensive analysis of current scientific literature and research.

AIMS

- To provide students with opportunities to apply their knowledge of science and technology
- To enable students to develop their abilities to analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information.
- To provide opportunities for students to engage in scientific investigations that are both thought provoking and relevant.
- To engender an awareness of the importance of communication, and collaboration during the learning process.

Objectives

Demonstrate both an understanding of -(and ability to apply)- the following :

- Scientific facts and concepts
- Investigative methods & techniques

Demonstrate an ability to construct, analyze, and evaluate:

- Hypotheses, research questions, and predictions
- Investigative strategies and techniques to collect authentic data.

Materials and Supplies

You are responsible to have the following items in class **everyday**:

- ✓ Text: *Biology*
- ✓ 1 three ring binder (1.5"-2.5" in size) with these items:
 - Binder Dividers (7)
 - Sheet protectors (5)
 - 50 Sheets of Loose leaf paper (college or wide rule)
- ✓ Pencils, pens and highlighters. **ALL** evidence will be written in pencil.
- ✓ Notebook or Composition notebook

Course Outline

Semester I:

- I. The Cell
 - a. Scientific Method
 - b. Characteristics of Life
 - c. Microscopes
 - d. Cell and Organelles
 - i. **MYP**
Assessment:
Scientific
Investigation I
- II. Cell Division
 - a. Cell Cycle / Mitosis / Meiosis
 - i. **MYP**
Assessment:
Scientific
Investigation II
- III. Inheritance
 - a. Mendel
 - b. Heredity
 - c. Human Genetics
 - i. **MYP**
Assessment:
One World Essay
II

Semester II:

- IV. DNA - RNA- Proteins
 - a. Replication
 - b. Transcription
 - c. Translation
 - i. **MYP**
Assessment:
Knowledge and
Content I
- V. Classification
 - a. Taxonomy
 - b. Kingdoms
 - c. Animal Phylums
 - d. Human Systems

- e. Segmented worms / Frog Dissection
 - i. **MYP**
Assessment:
Knowledge and
Content II
- VI. Micro-organisms
 - a. Structure
 - b. Reproduction
 - c. Importance
 - i. **MYP**
Assessment:
One World Essay
II
- VII. Introduction to Ecology
 - a. Biomes
 - b. Population Dynamics
 - c. Food Chains
 - d. Nutrient Cycles
 - i. **MYP**
Assessment:
One World Essay

GRADING

Ronald Reagan High School uses 21st Century Grading Practices, with the levels below. The percentage used in this class to determine these levels is shown in parentheses.

AD	= Advanced (90 - 100 %)
PR	= Proficient (70 - 89 %)
BA	= Basic (60 - 69 %)
MI	= Minimal (1 - 59 %)
0	= No work turned in (0 %)

At the end of the semester, all grades are converted into a letter grade: A, B, C, D or U based on the accumulated evidence grades and the final exam.

RE-TAKE POLICY

Re-takes for ANY piece of evidence can be done with a project (decided upon by the student only) and by making an appointment with the teacher to determine if the student has met the criteria for that particular piece of evidence. Anything being done not listed below must be approved by the teacher before starting. The grade for the re-take project and re-take evidence will replace the previous evidence grade in ESIS. An AD, PR, BA, or MI will be giving to the student based on the performance on the project and the re-take evidence.

*****ALL RE-TAKE WORK TO BE COUNTED TOWARD THE QUARTER GRADES IS DUE ONE WEEK BEFORE THE END OF THE GRADING PERIOD*****

Steps to follow when retaking a piece of evidence:

1. Get the piece of evidence signed by a guardian.
2. Complete a Retake project which relates to the subject or topic being studied. The project has to show you know and understand the content being studied currently.
3. Obtain the practice(s) from the teacher and complete in class or ELO.
4. Make an appointment with the teacher to retake the piece of evidence (only 5 appointments will be taken daily).
5. Take the evidence when scheduled. Your grade will be determined by the retake & project and will replace your current grade.

****Only ONE retake per day!!!! (Not all pieces of evidence will have a retake)**

EXAMPLES OF RE-TAKE PROJECTS:

LABS -- Research a lab dealing with an aspect from class or you may do some variation of an existing lab. You may also design your own lab experiment.

BULLETIN BOARDS -- Topic must be biology related and approved by teacher. Draw draft copy for approval.

POSTERS/DRAWINGS -- Possible topics might be related to class curriculum. Graded on

a) originality, b) color, c) neatness, d) size, e) content, & f) correctness.

WRITTEN REPORTS -- Possible topics **MUST** be related to in class curriculum. Reports must be a minimum of **One** double spaced typed page and **MUST** include your reference source in *APA style*.

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES -- Find any class related newspaper or magazine articles to read and write a summary on the article and how it relates to what we are learning in class. Summary must be typed and article attached.

BINDER POLICY

1. All students are required to have a separate binder to be used **ONLY** for Biology notes. No photocopies will be accepted. Extra pages can be added to your binder as needed during the school year. **NO** loose pages will not be accepted (in the front or back pockets of your binder). You will be asked to leave your binder periodically to have it checked & graded.
2. Use a **TAB** to indicate the location of units in the binder. This should be followed by notes, all other class papers/practices, such as; labs, problems assignments, quizzes, etc.
3. **All binders will contain the following:**
 - (a) Grading Sheets - to be used for keeping of individual grades & parent signature.
 - (b) Policies - All the policy sheets handed out at the beginning of the year.

- (c) Class Notes & Practices - Should be neat and complete. Also include labs reports, problem assignments, daily assignments, etc.
4. **Binders will be collected periodically and grades based on the following:**
- (a) Grade reports sheet up to date and correct
 - (b) Parents signature and date - signature will be checked
 - (c) Unit information with tab, order of notes and other papers
 - (d) Overall notebook neatness & no loose pages
 - (e) Completeness - extension of ideas presented during lectures
5. Notebooks should **ALWAYS** be brought to class.
LATE Binders will be counted as Late work!

NOTEBOOK POLICY

All students are required to have a separate notebook to be used **ONLY** for Biology. You will be asked to leave your notebook periodically to have it checked & graded. Use a **TAB** to indicate the location of units in the notebook. Inside the notebook you will complete daily openers and any book work from the text. The notebook will contain the daily openers, agenda for the day and the learning intention. Please highlight the dates of the openers in one color and the book work in another color.

LATE WORK POLICY

If you are in class the day a particular evidence is due, and do not hand it in, it is considered LATE. Daily evidence must be handed in on time for full credit. No LATE daily work will be accepted for full credit, except for illness. Evidence will be deducted 5% each day it is late (including weekends). No matter what score you receive, you are encouraged to turn in all evidence. In order to complete a re-take you will have to turn in the *original assignment* in order to start the re-take procedure. Remember, it is your responsibility to check on the work that you have missed during an absence and see that you turn in the assignment on time.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Academic honesty is an important ideal that will be enforced. Copying another student's work will result in a zero for both students. This means not only should *you* not copy, but do not let *another student* see or use your work! Plagiarism of any form will result in a zero, or possibly removal from the course with a failing grade!

ABSENCES:

It is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** for requesting missed work *the day after* you return from an absence. All work must be received in a timely manner. There will be *deadlines* for all work that serves as evidence. However, you are encouraged to discuss with me any circumstances that influence the timeliness of turning in an assignment. If you missed notes you can find them on the website or ask a peer. In addition, checking the website blog will help you with any due dates.

Classroom Rules ***Anything that you do that prevents me from teaching or another student from learning is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.*******

1. **Keep your hands, feet, and objects (including harsh words) to yourself.**
2. **Speak at appropriate times using appropriate language.**
3. **Be in your seat and ready to begin when the bell rings. - Do not stand around before the bell rings!**
4. **Remain in your seat unless you have permission to move about the room.**
5. **Leave food, backpacks/ large purses or handbags, jackets, and electronic equipment at home or in your locker.**
6. **Copying or cheating is unacceptable.**