

syllabus Pre-AP Biology

WARNING

THIS COURSE IS
READING INTENSIVE



Campus: Jim Ned High School
Teacher: David Hogan
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Year: 2023 - 2024
Conference: 8:10 – 9:00
Phone: 325-554-7755

Prerequisites

No prerequisites. The course is recommended for students that excel in math and/or science.

Course Weighting Advanced courses are weighted by adding ten percent to the semester grade when determining class rank. Weighting is used for class rank determination only. Weighted grades do not appear on report cards or transcripts.

Course Eligibility In order to enroll in an advanced course, the student must achieve a final course average of 80+ in the previous advanced prerequisite (if applicable), not including the ten percent weighting. In order to remain in an advanced course, students must maintain a 75+ average, not including the ten percent weighting. A student may be transitioned from an advanced course to a regular course if his/her grade falls below 75.

Course Description Biology is the study of living organisms, their origins, how they survive, reproduce, change over time, and interact with each other and their environments. The Pre-AP Biology curriculum is an introductory course taught in two semesters of high school. The primary objective of the course is to provide students with a fundamental understanding of modern biology and scientific processes, building a foundation for success in the college-level AP course to follow.

The course places a higher priority on developing critical thinking skills by examining real-world problems. The curriculum examines topics with more depth and includes advanced resource material in addition to the adopted text. Lab investigations play a prominent role in the course. Labs are more sophisticated than in the regular curriculum. Students are expected to design and perform experiments using appropriate methods and resources.

Course Outline

- Unit 1: Biochemistry, Cell Structure and Function
- Unit 2: Cells and Energy, Cell Growth and Division, Meiosis
- Unit 3: Mendelian Genetics, DNA and Protein Synthesis, Biotechnology
- Unit 4: Evolution and Ecology
- Unit 4: Classification and Diversity (Viruses and Prokaryotes, Protists and Fungi)
- Unit 5: Classification and Diversity (Plants)
- Unit 6: Classification and Diversity (Animals, Human Anatomy)

Stay Informed About Grades, Attendance, and Timeline

- Students and parents are expected to subscribe to grade and attendance notifications in Parent Portal.
- Students are expected to regularly monitor Google Classroom communications from the teacher.
- Important:** It is extremely important that both students and parents communicate with the teacher about grades early and often. Addressing performance concerns near the end of a six-week grading period seldom provides the student an opportunity to recover.

Grades

- **Tests (50%)** Tests consist of multiple choice, matching, fill in the blank, data analysis, short answer, and/or short essay questions. Tests will assess the student's ability to understand and integrate key facts and concepts from the unit objectives. Tests may not be retaken.
- **Labs and Projects (20%)** Labs consist of physical and virtual explorations, are typically student-designed, and often result in a formal lab report.
- **Reading Quizzes (20%)** Students will be assigned extensive reading assignments in this Pre-AP course. The readings will reinforce topics discussed in class and students are expected to ask questions during class about any portion of the reading that isn't completely understood. Quizzes may not be retaken.
- **Homework Quizzes (10%)** Homework assignments will be an integral part of the class designed to increase student understanding of topics discussed in class and covered in reading assignments. It is suggested that students complete all homework assignments, check their work using the provided keys, and ask questions during class or tutoring about any portion of an assignment that isn't completely understood. Quizzes may not be retaken.

Tutorials

- Tutorials are available Tuesday – Friday, 7:30 – 8:00am.
- Students are encouraged to use these times to address any difficulties that they may be having with the course material and assignments.

Excused Absences and Make-up Work

- **Excused, Expected Absences** If a student is going to be absent from class for an expected, excused absence (school-sponsored activity, medical appointment, etc.), the student is responsible for collecting assignments prior to the absence. Labs may be replaced with an alternate assignment.
- **Excused, Unexpected Absences** If a student is absent due to an unexpected event (illness, family emergency, etc.), the student is responsible for collecting assignments immediately upon return. Labs may be replaced with an alternate assignment.
- **Unexcused Absences** Assignments missed due to an unexcused absence are not accepted and are assigned a grade of zero. At the teacher's discretion, these assignments may be accepted, given extenuating circumstances.

Expectations

- The teacher and students will arrive to class on time and prepared every day.
- Teacher and students will tend to other business (drinks, restroom breaks) during the passing period.
- The teacher will develop genuine relationships with individual students, extending courtesy and respect.
- The teacher and parents will communicate regularly and openly.

Policies

- **Academic Integrity:** Cheating of any kind will result in a grade of zero.
- **Phones:** Phones may not be visible or audible while in the classroom. Students are expected to have phones turned off during class time. Phones that are seen or heard for any reason whatsoever will be confiscated by the teacher and submitted to the campus office.
- **Chromebooks:** Students are expected to bring the school-issued Chromebook, with sufficient charge, each day. Chromebooks will be used at teacher discretion.
- **Failure to Comply:** Classroom discussion will be an important component of this course. However, a directive is not an invitation to engage in conversation or debate. When given an instruction, if a student fails to comply fully, classroom and/or campus disciplinary measures will be leveraged.