

Biology -- Course Syllabus -- Valencia High School

Mr. Klinger

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Course Introduction

Welcome to Biology at Valencia High School. You are about to begin a unique experience where you will have the opportunity to learn cutting edge science and perform experiments and protocols you will find challenging and interesting.

Biology is a **one year** course which is designed to meet the "F" requirement of the University of California, and which promotes interest in biology through some laboratory inquiry and investigation. This course emphasizes the newest areas of research and technology in the biological sciences, namely the molecular approach, genetic engineering and biotechnology. Learning will take place through teacher-class discussion, reading the textbook and taking notes, laboratory investigations, videos, computer activities, supplemental reading, and of course homework, quizzes and tests. Good study habits will be developed and are essential to understanding and learning the information presented in class.

I am looking forward to getting to know each of you and providing you with a challenging but rewarding science experience this year.

Course Outline - Fall Semester

Unit 1 The Nature of Life

Chapter 1 The Science of Biology

Chapter 2 The Chemistry of Life

Unit 2 Ecology

Chapter 3 The Biosphere

Chapter 4 Ecosystems and Communities

Chapter 5 Populations

Chapter 6 Humans in the Biosphere

Unit 3 Cells

Chapter 7 Cell Structure & Function

Chapter 8 Photosynthesis

Chapter 9 Cellular Respiration

Chapter 10 Cell Growth and Division

Course Outline - Spring Semester

Unit 4 Genetics

Chapter 11 Introduction to Genetics

Chapter 12 DNA and RNA

Chapter 13 Genetic Engineering

Chapter 14 The Human Genome

Unit 5 Evolution

Chapter 15 Darwin's Theory of Evolution

Chapter 16 Evolution of Populations

Chapter 17 The History of Life

Unit 10 The Human Body (Time Permitting)

Chapter 35 Nervous System

Chapter 37 Circulatory and respiratory System

Chapter 38 Digestive and Excretory Systems

Chapter 39 Endocrine and Reproductive Systems

Chapter 40 The Immune System

Course Tools

- A. You will need a spiral bound notebook for this class; bring it everyday to class.
- B. Appropriate writing utensils. (2 pens and 2 pencils)
- C. Textbook: Biology by Miller/Levine, Copyright 2007, Pearson Prentice Hall publisher.

Grading System

- A. Approximately one third of your grade is homework; one third is laboratory and class activities and one third of your grade is tests and quizzes.
- B. The Final Examination at the end of the semester is worth 15% of your semester grade.
- C. My scale is the standard **90% = A; 80% = B; 70% = C; 60% = D**

Extra Credit

As I prefer you focus your efforts on what we are currently covering, extra credit assignments will be very limited.

Classroom Expectations

You are young adults and have reached a level of maturity that requires you to accept full responsibility for your actions. My expectations are simple and need to be followed.

1. Treat your peers the way you would want to be treated.
 2. Do not talk while a fellow classmate or instructor is talking.
 3. Do not eat, drink, or chew gum in class (water will be allowed).
 4. Follow directions and do not distract others from learning.
- If expectations are not met, the school discipline policy will be implemented

Homework

- A. Homework must be turned in when the tardy bell rings. ***No late homework will be accepted.***
- B. No late assignments are accepted. If you are absent, you are still responsible for the work we completed in class. For each day you are absent, you have the same number of days to make-up your assignments.
- C. Assignments and worksheets are posted at <http://www.mrklinger.com>.
- C. You must clear your absence within 7 days of returning to class. The make-up assignments will not be recorded until your absence(s) have been excused. If not excused within 7 days, your assignments will not be recorded.

Attendance

This is a college preparatory class. Missing one day can cause your grade to be affected significantly. Each day of instruction builds on the previous day; missing a day can throw off the sequence for many days to come. The only reason you should miss school is family emergencies and when you are ill.

You will find this course challenging and rigorous. If you accept the challenge, you will learn higher order thinking skills, organization, good study habits, reading techniques and of course, biology!

This syllabus is a general description of the course and is subject to change.

To Parents

I need your help! Students whose parents are actively involved in their academic pursuits perform at higher levels than students who are left to fend for themselves. The reason students earn less than a C in my classes is because they do not complete all the assigned work. **I assign homework almost every night** so students can learn good study habits, be challenged with higher level thinking and become proficient at what we are studying.

Will you help me and your son or daughter? Check my web site every week for the assignments and hold your son or daughter accountable for them. I cannot follow them home every day and make them do the work, but you can. I can inform parents when students do not complete assignments, but that does not change the fact that they did not do them. It is much better if parents encourage their son or daughter to complete each assignment as it is due and then go over their work with them before they turn it in. Students who earn less than a C in biology do so because they do not complete all of the assignments, not because they tried and did not understand.

Current class grades are posted and regularly updated on www.jupitergrades.com. The Campus Portal is only used to post progress report and report card grades. A Jupitergrades.com login will be provided for you during the first week of the semester; please e-mail me if you are having issues accessing your child's grade.

Internet: <http://www.mrklinger.com> ; www.jupitergrades.com

Voice Mail: 294-1188 x208

Parents: Please cut off and sign to acknowledge your receipt of this information and have your son or daughter return it to me. Thank You

To Students/Parents

I have received the information on Mr. Klinger's Biology Course Syllabus, Course Requirements, and Course Web Page and will make every effort to hold my son or daughter accountable for completing every assignment on time.

Parent Signature: _____

Print Student Name _____

Period _____