Biology Honors Syllabus

Mr. Glass

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Dear Parents and Students,

I want to welcome you all to the 2019-2020 school year at STEM! This syllabus is to help you understand this course and my classroom procedures. Please take time to thoroughly review all information in this syllabus and contact me with any questions or concerns.

Course Content

This course is designed around problem-based units that will challenge students to use their understanding of key concepts in biology to address real-world issues. The course will be centered on the Next Generation Science Standards.

Core Ideas:
LS1 – From Molecules to Organisms: Structures & Processes
A. Structure & Function
B. Growth & Development of Organisms
C. Organization for Matter & Energy Flow in Organisms D. Information Processing

LS2 – Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, & Dynamics
A. Social Interactions & Group Behavior

LS3 – Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits
A. Inheritance of Traits
B. Variation of Traits

LS4 – Biological Evolution: Unity & Diversity
A. Evidence of Common Ancestry & Diversity B. Natural Selection
C. Adaptation
D. Biodiversity & Humans

Required Materials

1. Laptop and charger (must bring to class daily)
2. Composition book – college or graph ruled (we'll be doing our labs in here)
3. Pencils AND pens (at least black or blue ink)
4. Textbook (Holt Biology)– will not need to bring to class

The following materials are optional, but **highly** recommended:

5. Colored pencils/markers
6. Highlighters

Students are expected to have their materials in class by Monday September 9th.

Assigned readings/video lecture homework and review questions will be posted to Powerschool every unit. Students are responsible for taking notes on the assigned information. Students will use this information during class activities and notes will be checked regularly.

Grading

Students' grades will be determined by grading a variety of assignments including daily assignments, projects, labs, and unit tests. Grades will be calculated on a point-based system, with the following expected averages:

- 60 % Tests/Quizzes
- 40% Projects/Homework/Classwork

Late Work Policy

Students may turn in late assignments and labs from a unit up until the date of the unit test for partial credit.

Due dates for assignments and tests will be announced in class and posted on Powerschool.

Make-up Work Policy

Attendance is necessary to succeed in this course. However, if you are absent, assignments missed may be found on the class Powerschool site, and students should speak with their teammates about what was missed. Each student is responsible for missed content and completing assignments in a timely fashion. Students are also responsible for getting any missed notes from another classmate. If there are any extenuating circumstances concerning make-up work, students or parents should contact me before the student returns to school or on the student's first day back to discuss their individual situation.

Work missed due to UNEXCUSED absences MAY NOT be made up.

Classroom Rules and Consequences

Classroom Rules:

1. Students are expected to follow all school rules.
2. Students are required to bring ALL required materials to class daily.
3. Students are to respect each other at all times.
4. Students should speak softly and stay on task when working in groups.
5. All lab safety rules should be strictly followed.

Academic Honesty

Cheating in any way, shape, or form *will not* be tolerated in class. Per district policy (see Student Rights & Responsibilities), **if you are caught cheating or plagiarizing you will receive an automatic zero.** Parents and administrators will also be notified of any incident of cheating. **Repeat offenses may result in loss of credit for the semester.** You are responsible for your own learning and are expected to complete your own work.

Cheating includes, but is not limited to, copying answers on tests or homework, talking during exams, glimpsing at nearby test papers, sharing laboratory reports, swapping papers, stealing, plagiarizing, illicitly giving or receiving help on exams or assignments.

Electronic Devices

Each student at STEM is assigned a laptop. The following are procedures for how to use these and other electronic devices in my classroom:

1. Students are expected to bring their laptop to class each day fully charged and functional. Bring your charging cable with you to school each day.
2. Students should save their work to Microsoft OneDrive (the district approved cloud storage). This ensures that you will be able to access your work from any computer in case you have to use a loaner.
3. No extensions on assignments will be granted due to a computer issue. You are responsible for having access to your work even if using a loaner computer.
4. Laptops and other electronic devices should not disrupt instruction. I will give instructions on when and how to use your laptop in class. I reserve the right to ask for all laptops to be removed from desks.

5. ***No printer/computer excuses allowed!*** **You are responsible for having your materials and assignments.**

Office Hours

My office hours are below. Please use these for makeup tests/quizzes and extra help as needed.

Monday – Friday 7:00 – 7:30 and 2:20-2:50pm

The best way to contact me is by email. **Please allow up to two full school days for a response.**

Thank you for reading the classroom procedures and syllabus. I look forward to working with you and your student and hope to have a wonderful school year!

Please sign below and return to the teacher.

I have read and understand the classroom policies and procedures for Honors Biology at Tesla – STEM.

Student Name: _____Student Signature_____

Date _____

Parent Name: _____ **Parent Signature**:_____

Date_____

Honors Biology Lab

Course Content

This course is designed around problem-based units that will challenge students to use their understanding of key concepts in biology to conduct appropriate scientific investigations, collect and analyze data, evaluate evidence, and present findings. The course will be centered on the Science & Engineering Practices as outlined by the Next Generation Science Standards:

1. Asking Questions & Defining Problems
2. Developing and Using Models
3. Planning & Carrying Out Investigations
4. Analyzing & Interpreting Data
5. Using Mathematics and Computational Thinking
6. Constructing Explanations & Designing Solutions
7. Engaging in Argument from Evidence
8. Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information

Required Materials*

1. Laptop and charger (must bring to class daily)
2. Composition book – college or graph ruled*
3. Pencils AND pens (at least black or blue ink)

The following materials are optional, but recommended:

4. Colored pencils/markers
5. Highlighters

Students are expected to have their materials in class by Monday September 9th.

Grading

Students' grades will be largely determined by their laboratory notebook, laboratory reports and presentations, and occasional quizzes. Grades will be calculated on a point-based system, with the following expected averages:

Lab Reports: 25 pts each

Presentations: 25 pts each

Quizzes: 25 points each

➔Parents are advised to reference their student's laboratory notebook to monitor work completion.