


Syllabus Honors Biology 2022-2023

Dr. Kunstetter

How To Reach Me

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Office hours: I am available to answer questions and help with classwork during Study Hall.

Course description

This course has the goal to explore life from cells to biomes, providing a in depth understanding of the complexity of living organisms and its interactions with the environment. Students will also explore ethical, social, economic and/or political implications of recent researches in the field. Topics covered will include

- Scientific methods in biology.
- Cells and organisms
- Organism structure and organization and homeostasis processes
- Organism's energy supply and exchange of matter
- Cycling of matter and flow of energy in an ecosystem
- Populations and species interactions in an ecosystem
- Ecology, conservation and human impact on environment.
- Genetics and evolution.

Textbook: Biology: The Dynamics of Life by The McGraw-Hill Companies

Required materials

- Binder or folder
- Notebook or lined paper
- Pencils and pens
- Planner

Grade Breakdown

Daily classwork/homework (15%)

Homework will consist of textbook exercises or worksheets assigned at the end of each lesson with the goal to help students practice concepts learned in class and prepare for tests. Daily classwork will include readings, video analysis, and textbook worksheets completed individually, in pairs, or in groups during class. Students may take home a classwork and return the completed work at the BEGINNING of the next class time.

Unit projects (20%)

In each unit, students will complete a project that can be a virtual interactive lesson, article analysis, series of readings, and writings or research projects. Projects will be graded using the project rubric provided to students along with the assignment. All projects should be completed individually during class time. Incomplete projects can be finished as homework but will still be graded as projects.

Lab worksheets (20%)

Students will complete lab reports or lab worksheets during labs. All lab reports or worksheets should be completed in pairs during class time. Incomplete lab reports or worksheets can be finished as homework but will still be graded as lab/project.

Assessment (20%)

Quizzes and multiple-format tests will be completed at the end of each unit to assess students' comprehension of concepts and vocabulary. Assessments will be open notes and must be completed individually during class time.

Finals(25%)

Finals will cover all content of the trimester. Must be completed individually during class time. Students may bring a study guide for the finals.

Extra credit

Extra credit may be provided to students before the end of the trimester to complement finals, projects, or assessment grades. Extra credit opportunities will be provided to students that have a complete portfolio.

Students are expected to turn in all assignments by the due date. Please speak to me for an extension on the due dates. Students that do not complete homework by the due date will automatically lose 5% of the grade and will not be able to grade work with the class. Late assignments may be turned in for partial credit until the end of the grade period..

All paper assignments will be placed and turned in on hand to the teacher by the due date. Assignments on the computer will be submitted online by the due date.

Class rules and expectations

YOU MUST ABIDE BY THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF JAMES MADISON PREPARATORY SCHOOL AS STATED IN THE FAMILY HANDBOOK.

Respectfulness

Maintain a respectful and positive attitude. You are expected to be respectful and courteous towards the teacher and towards your classmates.

Strong work ethic

Complete all work assign to you by the due date. Complete homework and missed work promptly and bring all materials to class every day.

Compassion

Be empathetic and sensitive to each other's feelings and challenges. Help your class and your classmates when you can.

Lab safety!



- You MUST learn and abide by all Laboratory Safety Rules. Violation of Laboratory Safety Rules will result in your removal from the lab and a Health/Safety ticket will be issued
- Drinks and food are not allowed in the lab. Water bottles are permitted.

CONSEQUENCES



The following consequences will be followed in order if expectations are not followed:

1. One-on-one verbal reminder
- 2 One-on-one verbal reminder and 5-min reflection
- 3 Ticket

Classroom Procedures

1. Lecture

- Be ready to take notes and participate by answering questions prompted by the teacher
- Some textbook work will be completed during lectures. You are expected to complete the work with the class and participate in the discussions
- Respect teacher's signs for silence
- Raise your hand to ask questions.

2. Homework

- Complete all homework by the due date. Homework will be graded in class
- Students that do not complete homework by the due date will automatically lose 10% of the grade and will not be able to grade work with the class. Late assignments may be turned in for partial credit.
- During homework grading, you are expected to participate in the discussion, review, and correct your answers as you grade.
- You are expected to turn in assignments with the grade on it. Answers that were corrected during the grading may be worth extra credit.

Classroom Procedures

3. Classwork

- Class assignments may be a student handout, a book assignment, or a reading/video assignment completed as part of daily instruction
- Wait for teacher instructions before starting working.
- If you are working in pairs or groups you are expected to complete your own worksheet. The teacher will randomly select one work to be representative of the group or pair

Collaborative groups:

1. Each person will be responsible to complete a task individually
2. Groups will meet and each person will share their knowledge with the group.
3. The groups will complete a worksheet together using the collective knowledge of all its members.
4. The worksheet will be graded as a class.

4. Completing Lab assignments

- The lab will be completed in groups.
- Wait for teacher instruction before starting. The teacher will instruct on how to complete the lab worksheet and review lab report expectations with the class.
- * There may be a brief discussion review before the start of “hands-on” activities.
- Read all procedures and make sure you will have all materials needed. Make sure you understand the procedures and the worksheet.
- Complete all work planned for the day. You may finish your lab report at home and bring it at the beginning of the next class time.
- Wear all your individual protective equipment (aprons, Goggles...) all the time
- Keep a clean and organized workspace. For safety, keep all chemicals and hazardous materials in the appropriate storage place.
- Once your group is done, clean up your area and return all material to the appropriate space. Review disposal instructions if working with chemicals.