

HONORS BIOLOGY/BIOLOGY
MRS. ELLIS
COURSE SYLLABUS
2009 - 2010

Instructor: Linda Ellis
Phone: 757-596-PCHS
Email: lellis@peninsulacatholic.com

Required:

Text: Miller, Levine. **Biology.** Copyright 2008 edition. Prentice Hall

Pre-requisite for Honors Biology:

Biology is taught as a regular Biology course; however, students may elect to take Biology at an honors level. Students who would like to take Biology for Honors credit will be given the opportunity to sign up the first day of class. Students who elect to take Honors Biology must maintain an average of 89% in all graded areas. The areas that are graded are Test/Quizzes, Labs, Homework and Class work. Honors Biology students will be given tests that include not just content but also application. Lab reports should reflect knowledge of application. Students that maintain the 89% by the first progress report will be in Honors Biology. Grades will not be recalculated if a student does not meet the requirement for Honors Biology.

Course Description:

The following will be brought to class daily: textbook; notebook (with notebook paper); pen (blue or black ink), pencil and colored pencils. Also, other materials requested by the teacher.

Instructional Methods:

Lecture; group work; lab activities; presentations; demonstrations; research opportunities; guest lectures and possible field trips.

Grading:

Each student will keep a grade log. Grades are based on test/quiz (35%), Lab/Lab reports and projects (35%), Class work (15%) and Homework (15%). An exam will be given at the end of each nine weeks grading period. The exam will count as 20% of your nine weeks grade.

Materials:

Each student will need a 1.5 inch three ring binder, dividers and binder paper. The notebook will be kept in the following order: title page, grade log, syllabus, lab rules, and a divider for each section. The notebook will be kept in the following order: Notes, Lab, Class work and Homework, and Test. The notebook should be kept in order and should be available at any time for grading. Notebook grades will equal one test grade. Set up for the notebook will be discussed during the first week of class.

Lab reports:

All lab reports will follow the scientific method. The scientific method is as follows: Problem, Research, Hypothesis, Experiment – Materials and Procedure, Observations, and Conclusion. Examples will be provided in class. All labs are done with a partner, however, all lab reports are written individually. This is never written collaboratively.

We will cover the following topics: Introduction to Biology; Scientific Method; Ecology; Chemistry; Microscope and Cell Theory; Genetics; Classification Systems; Monerans and Viruses; Protista; Fungi; Plants; Animals; Human Body and Systems. We may not follow this order. This represents topics to be covered.

Honor Code:

The PCHS Honor Code is based on the premise that PCHS students will not cheat, lie, or steal, nor tolerate those who do. During the course, the following expectations will apply: Test and Quizzes: All work must be performed individually using only the resources specifically authorized by the teacher. Lab Reports: all work must be performed by the student. Students will generally be assigned to a group for lab work. Students or students in a group may work cooperatively with one another, however, their lab reports may not be a copy of some other students work. Homework assignments: Homework assignments are given as a means to enhance the learning and mastery of the process. By their nature, homework assignments are “open book”. On the other hand, the mere copying of another’s work for submission and grading is prohibited by the Honor Code.

Late/Make up Work:

Homework and in-class assignments will be due when specified. Assignments will not be accepted after they have been collected. If a student is absent and the absence is excused, the assignment will be due the following day. If a student knows that he/she will not be in class (including sports events), it is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor and make arrangements to complete and turn in the assignment prior (before) to the absence. A student absent on the day of a test (and they have prior knowledge of the test) will be expected to take the test on the first day of their return. Major assignments/projects are expected to be turned in on the due date. If a major assignment/project is turned in the day after the due date the highest grade the student will receive is a 68%/F. If the assignment is not turned in within seven days, the resulting grade will be a zero.

Class Rules:

- All students will be in their assigned seat when the bell rings.
- Students are not allowed to be out of their assigned seat unless given permission by the teacher.
- Students are to come to class prepared with all materials needed.
- All handbook rules will apply.

- No running or playing in the lab.
- No touching or playing with the water faucets or outlets at the lab tables or the shower and eye wash station.
- Work areas must be cleaned and trash disposed of properly.
- Calculators are not allowed in class at any time.

Papers:

Your name, the date of the assignment and honor code will be written on all papers.

After reading the syllabus, please sign and date this. This document will be stored in your notebook for class.

Student signature _____ Date _____