

Biology I Course Syllabus- Mrs. Duran

Course description

Welcome to Valenica High school! Biology is a college preparatory course (meets the “F” requirement for UC) designed to introduce the study of living things in the areas of cell biology, biochemistry, genetics, human anatomy and physiology, zoology, botany, and environmental studies. The course approach is to actively involve students in the actual process of science through hands-on, minds- on activities. Students will develop and use higher order thinking skills such as inferring, organizing, comparing, interpreting, analyzing, synthesizing, and applying. Good study habits are essential to this challenging and rewarding class. First semester will cover units 1, 3, and 4. Second semester will cover units 2, 4, 5, and 10 in the Miller Levine Prentice Hall Biology text.

Required materials

1. Biology textbook
2. Spiral bound notebook and 3 ring binder with dividers
3. Notecards and ring to bind them
4. colored pencils, metric ruler, calculator

Make-up Work

Regular attendance is critical to success. You are expected to be in your assigned seat when the bell rings, ready to begin class. Make-up work is available for students who have excused absences from class. No late homework will be excepted. It is your responsibility to get make-up work when you return: first check the make-up binder of daily activities, and then get clarification from a classmate. **Labs must be made up during lunch or after school and within 1 week of your return.** Students must arrange with the teacher to make up such activities.

Lab Safety/ Cheating Policy

Any student who acts in such a way so as to jeopardize the safety of other students during labs will be dealt with severely. The first offense will result in a classroom suspension, and an automatic F on the lab. The second offense will result in permanent removal from the class. Any student who plagerizes another person’s work or cheats on a test will be dealt with severely. Such activity will result in an automatic F on the assignment and loss of class participation points. The student will be written up for cheating and placed on the school cheating probation list.

Grades

Grading will be based on classwork, written assignments, projects, quizzes and tests, class participation, and laboratory investigations. The semester grade will be determined by the percentage of total points possible-

A: 100 - 90% B: 89 - 80% C: 79 - 70% D: 69 - 60% F: 59% and below.

Cumulative final exam	15%
Class homework	10%
Labs	20%
Tests and quizzes	40%
Classwork	15%

Extra credit assignment are offered throughout the year as appropriate and will constitute no more than 2% towards the total grade.

Test retakes are available within 1 week of the test for a maximum score of 70%. Any student who scores below a 70% on a test may retake the test if the testretake assignment is completed.

Guidelines

- 1) Show respect to everyone and use acceptable language.
- 2) Do not bring food, drink, gum, or electronic devices into the room.
- 3) Obey safety rules, cleanup lab stations, and keep desks free of writing.
- 4) Wait for the teacher, not the bell to dismiss the class.

How to Organize your Binder

Your binder is a study tool that will reflect what you have done in this course. To use it effectively, you need to keep it *neat and organized*.

Notebook Organization

1. Everything- class notes, lab reports, and handouts belong in your binder.
2. Bring you binder to class everyday!
3. Organize your binder with dividers in the following way:

Section 1: spiral bound notebook for warmups and cornell notes

Section 2: handouts and packets

Section 3: Labs and activities

4. I will periodically collect and grade your notebook using the above criteria.

General guidelines for written assignments

1. Always write in **pen** unless it is a graph or data table.
2. Always pay attention to neatness, spelling, and grammar. **Answer in complete sentences!!**
3. Use complete headings on your papers:

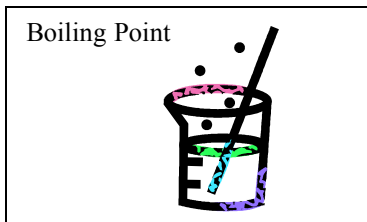
Name Date Period
Title of Assignment

Vocabulary Words – White Index Cards

On the front of the index card write the vocabulary word and a picture of the concept. On the back of the index card write the definition for the word in your own words.

For Example:

Front



Back

The temperature and pressure at which the kinetic energy of liquid particles overcomes the intramolecular attractions.

The vocabulary words for each chapter can be found on the last page of the chapter. It is important that you start learning the vocabulary words for each chapter the first day the chapter is lectured on in class. As I lecture over the particular chapter, the vocabulary words will be integrated into the quizzes for that chapter. The test for each chapter will include all the vocabulary words for that chapter.