

Mrs. Coleman's Biology Course Expectations

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Available during brunch, lunch and after school by appointment.

Course Description

Biology is a one-year course that is designed to meet the "F" entrance requirements for the UC school system. In addition, this course covers all required California State Content Standards. The course investigates life and promotes interest in science through lecture, discussion, laboratory investigation, hands-on activities, videos, and integration of technology.

Notes: This course is mandatory, and you must pass it in order to graduate from high school.

Course Outline—Semester 1

Chapters

California State Standard Covered

Quarter 1

17--Ecosystems

6a, 6b, 6c

18--Biological Communities

6d, 6e, 6f

19--Human Impact

6a, 6b

2--Chemistry of Life

1b, 1h, 4e, 4f, 5a

3--Cell Structure

1a, 1c, 1e, 1f, 1g, 1j, 4a

4--Cells & Their environment

1a, 1b, 1j

5--Photosynthesis & Respiration

1f, 1g, 1j

Quarter 2

38--Introduction to Body Structure

9a, 9h

39--Circulatory & Respiratory

9a, 9g, 9i

40--Digestive & Excretory

9a, 9g, 9f

41--The Body Defenses

10a, 10b, 10c, 10d, 10e, 10f

42--Nervous System

9b, 9c, 9d, 9e

43--Hormones & Endocrine

9f, 9g, 9i

Materials Required:

- Textbook *Prentice Hall Biology* by Miller & Levine
- Spiral notebook (suggested minimum 120 pages)
- Ruler (6" ruler is fine)
- Highlighter
- Pencils (No pens to be used in the class!)

Grading Scale:

A+ 98 % and above	A 93-97 %	A- 90-92 %
B+ 88-89 %	B 83-87 %	B- 80-82 %
C+ 78-79 %	C 73-77 %	C- 70-72 %
D+ 68-69 %	D 63-67 %	D- 60-62 %
F 59 % and below		

Grade Distribution:

You are required to maintain your own biology notebook. Organization is the key to a success in this class. Your notebook will be collected and graded on the days you are taking chapter tests. There will be 12 chapter tests per semester. For each chapter, there will be 1-2 labs and at 1-2 quizzes, depending on the difficulty of the material studied. At the end of the semester, students will take a comprehensive final exam.

Assignment	Point Value	Points Possible	Percentage
Workbook	50	12 x 50 = 600	21 %
Labs	30	20 x 30 = 600	21 %
Quizzes	10	20 x 10 = 200	7 %
Tests	100	12 x 100 = 1200	41 %
Projects	100	1 x 100 = 100	3 %
Final Exam	200	1 x 200 = 200	7 %
Total		2900	100 %

Classroom Rules:

1. Be prompt: *be ready to learn when the class begins.*
2. Be prepared: *have materials with you and know the due dates.*
3. Be polite & positive: *raise your hand to speak, speak in normal tone of voice & be attentive.*
4. Be productive: *turn in work on time & always do your best.*
5. Be a problem solver: *correct problems quickly & peacefully before they escalate.*

Consequences

The purpose of our class is to learn. If students interfere with the learning process of others, they will be dealt accordingly. First, they will be warned and, if the behavior persists, they will receive a step on the 5-step Opportunity system. Refusing to comply with teacher's instructions will result in automatic class suspension and loss of points on any assignments missed due to the suspension.

During Class

Upon entering the classroom, students will go to their seat, get their notebook and be ready to begin working on their Warm-up Activity. Students that are tardy to class will enter the classroom quietly, go to their seats and promptly begin their work. Tardy students will receive no points for the warm-up activity.

During class, students will carefully listen to the instructions of the teacher and follow them without delay. If a student has a question or has something else to say, he or she will raise a hand and wait patiently to be called on by the teacher. To do otherwise is disruptive to the class. Students will remain in their assigned seats throughout the period and work individually unless instructed to work in groups.

Only water bottles are allowed in class. Any other bottle and/or food will be disposed of upon entering the classroom or the teacher will confiscate it. Repeated violation of this rule will result in after-class clean-up duty or other consequence determined by the teacher. Cell phones, pagers, and electronic devices (CD players or iPods) are to be turned off and put away upon arriving to class. Failure to comply with this policy will result in confiscation of these devices by the teacher.

At the end of the class, students will remain seated and wait for the teacher to dismiss them. On their way out, students will return their textbooks and chairs to proper places and exit in an orderly manner, leaving their seats clean and neat.

Tardy Policy:

Students tardy to class will quietly enter and sign their names on tardy list. They will place any tardy passes in a tardy box. Then they will quietly take their seats ready to learn. No points will be given for any missed warm-up activity. Other consequences for being tardy will adhere to the school's tardy policy.

Restroom Passes

Students will not be permitted to leave the classroom first 10 minutes and last 10 minutes of the class. Every student will be issued 4 tickets for restroom passes per semester. Any unused tickets can be turned in at the end of the semester for X-tra credit (5 points per ticket). When leaving with a restroom pass, a student will turn in one ticket, write down his/her name and the time he/she is leaving the classroom on the Restroom Pass Sign-out/Sign-in Sheet. The student will also sign in and mark the time when he/she returns.

Academic Integrity

Students enrolled in class are expected to work on their assignments. These assignments are provided to help students learn what they need to do well on the test. Absence is not an excuse for late or missed assignments! If you are absent for any reason, it is your responsibility to get missed assignments from your folder in the classroom and complete them within a reasonable time period—1 day for every missed class.

If you are absent the day of the test, you will arrange makeup time before another chapter test. Failure to take the missed test within the specified time frame will result in 0%. No penalty on make-up tests if tests missed due to an excused absence. Test grades of an F or D can be retaken up for a grade of up to 70% only.

Any late work and/or make-up work related to the chapter should be turned in prior to the chapter test. Once students' assignments are graded and handed back, all late work can earn only ½ credit. If students are absent the day assignment is due, they will receive full credit if they turn it in the day they come back. Missed labs cannot be made up (except those that do not require any set-up or materials). Assignments missed due to truancies will result in zero points!

Any suspected cheating will result in an automatic zero. Copying of any assignments will result in a zero for both parties.

Major projects can be resubmitted for a better grade. They will, however, be scored at a 10% deduction.

Science Safety

Students must pass a lab safety test (70% or higher) and sign a safety contract in order to participate in labs. Failure to do so will result in zeros on the missed labs. Students choosing not to follow the safety rules and engaging in unapproved lab practices will receive a class suspension, a zero on the lab and may not be allowed to participate in other labs.

Replacement Costs:

Lost or damaged textbook = \$110.00

Damaged lab equipment = current price in Flynn catalog + S&H fee

Other lost or damaged items = TBD by the appropriate district personnel

Upon reading the information that relates to the course, please complete the signature sheet below and return to Mrs. Coleman within one week.

Student Agreement

I, _____ (please print your name) have read and understand the course expectations in Mrs. Coleman's Biology class and agree to follow the guidelines established for the class to ensure the academic success of the entire class.

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Section

I have reviewed the class information for Biology course.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

E-mail address for contact: _____

Best phone number for contact: _____

Comments or Questions: