



BIOLOGY

COURSE OUTLINE & EXPECTATIONS

MS. AMANDA SMITH

Room 319



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Website: smithclassroom.tripod.com

This biology class is designed to have each student play the role of scientist. We will be exploring various branches of biology including biochemistry, genetics, zoology, botany, animal behavior, and ecology. As a scientist, the student will be asked to become familiar with the laboratory equipment, perform various laboratory skills, understand scientific concepts and terminology, and participate in group activities, discussions and labs.

Required Materials:

- Student Planner
- Binder
- White, college rule notebook paper
- Pencil with eraser
- Blue or Black ink pen (**no bright-color gel pens, please**)
- Colored pencils
- Note cards for making flashcards
- 3 subject, college-ruled, spiral notebook
- Book cover

Evaluation:

A variety of evaluation methods will be used to monitor the student's progress.

- ✓ Daily out-of-class reading assignments with study guides
- ✓ Daily in-class discussions and notes
- ✓ Weekly reading quizzes
- ✓ Unit exams
- ✓ Research projects (both group and independent)
- ✓ Laboratory activities

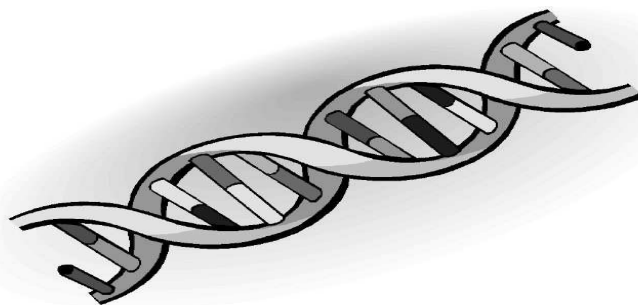


DoDEA Biology Standards:

- The student describes, analyzes and compares structure, function, and organization of various cells.
- The student communicates an understanding of the biochemistry of life including organic compounds, enzymes, cellular respiration and photosynthesis.
- The student describes the behavior of organisms and hypothesizes the relationship to nervous and endocrine systems and various external stimuli.
- The student elaborates on the principles of genetics and explains the role of DNA, genes, chromosomes, and mutation in reproduction and heredity.
- The student relates theories of biological evolution to geologic time and addresses speciation, biodiversity, natural selection, and biological classification.
- The student examines ecology as interrelationships of biotic and abiotic factors and explains the transfer of matter and energy within ecosystems.

Unit Calendar – Weekly Breakdown:

Unit	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	
Ecosystems: Interdependence and Change	■	■	■																																		
Transfer of Energy and Matter in Ecosystems				■	■																																
The Biochemistry of Life						■	■	■	■	■																											
Cell Biology										■	■	■	■																								
DNA														■	■	■																					
Genes, Chromosomes, Proteins and Traits																	■	■																			
Sexual Reproduction																			■	■	■																
Mendelian Genetics and Beyond																					■	■	■	■													
Growth, Development, and Behavior																							■		■	■	■	■									
Molecular Basis for Evolution																												■	■								
Natural Selection																													■	■			■	■			
Biodiversity and Speciation																																			■	■	■



Grading:**Bellringers:**

Students will receive points each day for their daily start-up activity.

Notebook:

Regular notebook checks will allow students to receive 10-20 points for maintaining neat and organized notes.

Assignments:

Activities, labs and research projects will be given point values depending on their level of difficulty and required time. The more involved assignments will receive more points.

Quizzes:

Regular quizzes will be given to assess learning and ensure understanding of homework assignments. These will be worth between 20-50 points each.

Tests:

Tests will be given in the middle and/or at the end of each unit and will be worth approximately 100-150 points.

Grading Scale:

A 93-100%	C+ 77-79%
A- 90-92%	C 73-76%
B+ 87-89%	C- 70-72%
B 83-86%	D 60-69%
B- 80-82%	F below 60%

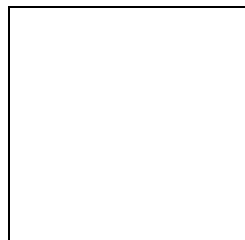
Missing Work:**Absences:**

1. It is the student's responsibility to find out what was missed on the day that he/she was absent. Daily agendas and homework assignments can be found by visiting the classroom website:
<http://smithclassroom.tripod.com>
2. The student has 1 day for each day he/she is absent to make up daily work and receive full credit.
3. Tests and quizzes will need to be made up in seminar, before, or after school one day following the excused absence.

Late Assignments:

Late assignments will be accepted for partial credit. For each day the assignment is late 10% will be taken off of the earned score.

****This class includes several labs and in class activities, so it is very important that students attend class and participate each day. ****

**Student Resources:**

Classroom Website: <http://smithclassroom.tripod.com>

This website is designed to assist students with their work in biology class. Students can find the classroom agenda, homework assignments, project outlines, bellringers, copies of handouts, and updated grade reports.

Text Book: Biology, Holt, Rinehart, and Winston

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I strongly encourage students and parents to contact me at any time with questions or concerns. I am available to assist students before or after school as well as by appointment.

Please sign the bottom indicating that you have read and understand the above outline and expectations.

Print Student Name _____

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____

Please detach this section and return to Ms. Smith by Wednesday, September 3, 2008.