

Welcome to Biology

Class Syllabus Dr. Jeffery Room L-20

Course Title: Biology

Prerequisite: none

Credit: I full year science credit

Grades: 9-10

Textbook: Biology, Miller & Levine, Pearson Ed Inc. (2010)

Lab Fee: A laboratory fee of \$5.00 is required for all science courses.

Course Description

Biology, study of living things, exposes students to a wide range of biological processes including molecular and cell biology, heredity and genetics, ecology, evolution, and the diversity of life. We learn to apply science processes of observation, questioning, hypothesizing, measurement and data gathering, analysis, interpretation, and application. Laboratory activities make up a significant part of the course. State test is required in May. This course fulfills a science requirement for science for high school graduation as well as for the Regents' Scholarship.

Biology Utah State Core Standards

- STANDARD I: Students will understand that living organisms interact with one another and their environment.
- STANDARD II: Students will understand that all organisms are composed of one or more cells that are made of molecules, come from preexisting cells, and perform life functions.
- STANDARD III: Students will understand the relationship between structure and function of organs and organ systems.
- STANDARD IV: Students will understand that genetic information coded in DNA is passed from parents to offspring by sexual and asexual reproduction. The basic structure of DNA is the same in all living things. Changes in DNA may alter genetic expression.
- STANDARD V: Students will understand that biological diversity is a result of evolutionary processes.

Class Procedures

1. Be present and on time - in your seat ready to begin at the bell.
2. Do not disrupt the class or the learning. Please turn off all electronic devices, put away all things that distract from your ability to learn. Repeated infractions may result in you device being confiscated
3. Be attentive and stay on task. Do what is expected and participate in the activities of the class.
4. **Be Prepared** - Bring your textbook, notebook, and writing instrument every day as well as any assignment that is due, completed and ready to hand in on time.
5. Respect others, their property and space. Courtesy always wins respect and leaves a lasting impression.
6. Behavior and Dress – Dress appropriately for a school setting. See Student Handbook for guidelines.
7. Seating - teacher's option
8. I excuse you - not the bell.
9. No food, candy, or drinks of any kind in the classroom. Since this is a laboratory class, this becomes a safety issue.

Attendance Procedures - See Student Handbook

1. Timpvew High School encourages students to maintain an attendance rate of better than 90%. Class time is valuable learning time and your attendance is directly related to your success in school.
2. Absences must be cleared by a parent or guardian **within 5 days** of the absence by note, email, or phone call.
3. Students are considered tardy when they are not in their seat **with the appropriate materials** ready to begin at the bell. Students, who are tardy to class, must **sign the tardy log**. This will be used to verify that you were present in class rather than absent. If you do not sign, you may be marked absent.
4. Students will receive an extra tardy they are more than 10 minutes late.
5. Students will receive an "unexcused absence" is they are more than 30 minutes late.
6. When absent, bring a parent/guardian note to the attendance office within 5 school days of the absence.
7. An **attendance bonus** (3% assignment grade raise) will be given each term for those who have no unexcused absences, truanicies, or tardies. This means that 3% of the total assignment points for the term will be added to your assignment point total. For example, if a student has 920 points out of 1000 assignment points, he/she would normally have a 92% score on the assignments. Thus, good attendance could result in an overall grade raise. Extra curricular absences and parent-excused absences will not count against your attendance bonus.
8. If you have only one unexcused absence or tardy, you will be rewarded with a 2% assignment grade raise.
9. If you have only two total unexcused absences or tardies, you will be rewarded with a 1% assignment grade raise.
10. If you have three or more unexcused absences or tardies, you will not receive a grade raise.
11. Note: Truanicies will automatically eliminate the attendance bonus.

Learning Expectations

1. Student behavioral objectives or learning targets based on the state biology core curriculum are provided for each unit. These will be reviewed at the beginning and end of the instruction for each target.
2. Students with IEP's and 504 plans will be given appropriate learning activities to aid them in accomplishing the objectives and learning targets.
3. Students who wish to accelerate can take on extra learning activities beyond the basic class requirements.
4. See Curriculum Map for Biology Course Outline.

Grades

1. Based on tests, quizzes, labs, assignments, etc.
2. 55% on tests/quizzes; 45% on assignments, labs, etc

3. Grading Scale

A	93-100%	B	83-86%	C	73-76%	D	63-66%
A-	90-92%	B-	80-82%	C-	70-72%	D-	60-62%
B+	87-89%	C+	77-79%	D+	67-69%	F	Below 60%

4. Failing - teacher conference - parent notification
5. Extra credit is considered to be extra work beyond the normal class work and must have prior approval of the teacher. No extra credit is allowed if the student has not completed the normal class work. It cannot be used as makeup for incomplete work.

Assignments

1. Students typically receive at least one homework assignment per week. Most involve reading and writing. Some may involve research or field work. For some units of study, a larger long term project may be assigned. Specific details for these will be provided to the student when the time comes.
2. Complete all required work to the best of your ability and with the goal to learn. Don't do it just to "get it over with." Take pride in your work and do your best.
3. Do your own work. You may get help from others. However, any copying, trading of answers or any other form of cheating will result in an automatic zero for all students involved. If you allow someone else to cheat off your work, you will also receive a zero.
4. Due dates will be given and posted. Assignments will be due at the beginning of class unless otherwise stated.
5. Assignment redos: If you do not like your score on an assignment, you can redo it **once**. Assignments that were not complete cannot be redone, but they will be marked incomplete and late until they are turned in appropriately.
6. Late Assignments - Late work is not accepted for full credit. Only two late assignments are allowed per term for ½ credit and will only be accepted up until that particular unit's test. **No other late work will be accepted.**
7. Students may retake one test per term. This will be done in the testing center. Make sure you let me know in advance so I can have the test available. You **must** complete all assignments for that unit to be eligible for a retake.
8. If you miss a test, you will need to take it in the testing center within one week of your return. Let me know when you will take it so I can make sure it is available.
9. If absent, please request makeup work/homework through my email (kodij@provo.edu) or have a friend pick it up. It is your responsibility to find out what you have missed and complete it within the time allowed.
10. Upon returning to class after an absence, bring any completed assignments that may have come due while you were absent and pick up any work that you missed as a result of your absence. Hand work to me personally and remind me that you were absent, so the assignment is not marked as late.

Tests (Formative & Summative Assessments)

1. Formative assessments are given after each concept to check for understanding but do not become part of the term grade. These assessments have a direct correlation to the learning targets and success criteria.
2. Summative assessments, tests and quizzes will become part of a student's term grade.
3. Test dates will be posted at least two days in advance.
4. All tests are required and will count toward your grade.
5. If absent during a test, you must make it up within one week. Make-up tests must be taken in the testing center. Let me know when you will take it so I can make certain it is available.
6. If you are truant on test day, you will receive a zero for the test and will not be allowed to make it up.
7. Cheating on a test will result in an automatic zero for that test with no makeup allowed.

Classroom Safety

1. Specific instructions will be given prior to each laboratory exercise. Make sure you understand and follow them.
2. Use common sense. **BE CAREFUL!**
3. No Horseplay - This may result in the loss of laboratory privileges.
4. No food allowed in the lab.

Communication

Parents, please feel free to contact me after school by phone (801-221-9720 ex.3601). You may also contact me by email at kodij@provo.edu. I am usually available after school from 2:15 to 3:15 for student help and appointments with parents. Please check ahead of time to make sure I will be in my classroom.