

Course Outline
Honors Biology

Ms. C. Mistretta Room #201
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Materials: BRING THESE EVERY DAY!!!

Textbook-Biology (Glencoe) COVERED!!!

Notebook-A looseleaf binder with at least one section dedicated specifically to biology

Something to write with!!!! Do not forget this (this is simply basic responsibility and respect for the process of the class)

A box of colored pencils (occasional use)

A highlighter (occasional use)

Student handbook: You will copy the assignments into this each day.

TESTS AND QUIZZES: You will have at least one quiz for each unit and a test at the end of each unit. Units vary in length from 7-14 days.

EXTRA CREDIT: See the section on passes. Beyond that, don't ask!!!

PROJECTS:

1. Read *The Double Helix* by James Watson and write an argumentative essay.
2. Socratic discussion: Research, write a paper and participate in a group discussion on a current bio-controversy. (NOTE: Be sure to review the description and consequences of plagiarism in the student handbook)

FIELD TRIP:

Each year (February/March), a one day conference on genetics is held which is truly the best 'nuts and bolts' approach to current genetics topics with special emphasis on stem cell research and curing genetic disorders. The cost is approximately \$20 plus the cost of your lunch (unless you bring a lunch). All students should plan to attend.

CLASS RULES AND EXPECTATIONS

We are responsible to:

1. Be in class on time, in your seat, ready to begin when the bell rings.
2. Keep up with assignments-do make up work promptly. The number of days out, and type of absence, will determine the number of make up days.
3. Keep the room clean-trash in garbage can, waste paper in recycling bin, desks neatly arranged before you leave.
4. Follow all lab and safety rules.
5. Take care of all equipment as well as your textbooks (USE A COVER)!!
6. Ask if you need extra help. Help is available before school or after school.
7. Participate in class-contribute something positive each day.
8. Follow all rules set forth in the student handbook.
9. Make sure you know where things are in the room: date, pencil sharpener, office supplies, exits, safety equipment, etc.
10. Know procedures for fire and tornado emergencies.
Fire: Exit the room using the front door. Go straight down the stairs and outside into the parking lot to the left. Gather as a class.
Tornado: Exit the room using the front door. Turn right and go directly to the cafeteria using central stairs. Sit away from glass.
11. Keep the room clean and neat. Throw your trash, gum, etc. away properly. Check your area before you leave it. This applies equally to your desk area as to your lab area.
12. No eating (candy, food, etc.) or drinking is allowed at all.

Respect is a requirement in this class. We will show this by:

1. Treating all people in class fairly.
2. Reporting any problems to the teacher immediately (ex. damage to desks, disagreements, equipment problems, etc.)
3. Being quiet and actively listening when the teacher or other student is speaking or asking a question.
4. Keeping class interruptions to a minimum (ex. sharpening pencils, rustling paper, bathroom trips).
5. Waiting for the teacher to dismiss class-do not line up by the door.
6. Remembering that my desk has my stuff on it-NOT YOURS!!! I am very willing to share my things that I have paced around the room. BUT if it is on my desk, you must ask before borrowing it. This includes my pencils and pens, calculator, and particularly the computer. Anything you borrow, return to where you got it.
7. Not going into equipment cabinets, drawers, teacher station, or leaving trash in any place except the trashcan or recycling bins.
8. Displaying good character at all times. Character counts!!!! I will do my best to model good character for you on a daily basis. Please display your best character in the class so that this room is a safe and pleasant for all.

Classwork:

1. Any written work that is turned in to me must be in dark blue or black pen or pencil. No markers or pens of other colors will be accepted.
2. Late/make up work will not be accepted once graded work has been returned to the class. You must be prompt in turning in and making up your work.

Grading:

If you want to know your grade, you should check the updated grades on Power School.

The basis of the grade for first semester is equally divided into three categories:

tests/quizzes homework/class work labs/projects

Second semester grade divisions will be:

40% tests // 20% quizzes // 30% projects // 10% homework

The semester grade will be based on an 85%-15% ratio.

If you are a diligent studier and good test taker, this should be no problem. If you do not have the self-discipline to study or have difficulty taking tests that cover a large amount of material, you must insure yourself a safety net with hard work and good grades on the daily course work during the semester (homework, chapter tests, labs and quizzes).

Passes:

You may leave the classroom on a pass (for personal reasons) once per term. You may not leave the room during the first or last 10 minutes of class. Unused passes will earn extra credit (10 points for an unused pass).

Detention:

You truly do not want to get a detention with me, as you will be spending your time cleaning or doing some other menial task. Do the right thing and avoid even getting detention.