

Biology Syllabus

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I. Overview

Biology is an inquiry-based course designed to familiarize you with science processes, skills, and understandings related to a wide range of topics in Biology. During this course, you will learn to identify the basic questions and concepts that guide scientific investigation and to design and conduct your own investigations. Some important skills you will develop include microscopy, graphing and measurement, identification of research questions, making connections, and the ability to be a self-directed learner.

II. Course of Study

Textbook: *Biology*, Tennessee edition, by Miller and Levine, Prentice Hall, 2018.

In addition to the textbook, students may read various articles from scientific or education publications including, but not limited to, *National Geographic*, *Discover*, *Scientific American*, *Science*, *Wired*, *ScienceNews*, and *The Scientist*. Students may also read excerpts from the book titled *In Harm's Way* by Doug Stanton.

Units of study will include the following:

Mathematics and Measurement

Cells

Evolution

Photosynthesis

Ecology

Scientific Inquiry /Science in Practice

Biochemistry

Genetics

Cell Respiration

Relationships Among Organisms

Link to the state curriculum standards: [Biology State Standards](#)

III. Make up Work Policy

You have as many days as you miss to make up the assignments (example: miss two days of school, assignments missed during that time will be due the second day after you return). This is school policy.

Important: If school is delayed due to weather on an exam day, students will still take the regularly scheduled exams on that day. The exams will simply contain fewer questions. If school is canceled due to weather on an exam day, students will take the exam the next time class meets. This policy applies to quizzes as well.

IV. Grading System

Grades will be posted online using the school's grading software. Students will receive codes so they may access their grades online. Letter grades (A,B,C, etc.) are determined according to the state mandated scale located in the student handbook. Occasionally unscheduled pop quizzes may be given in class. The current testing days for this class are Mondays and Thursdays. However, testing and quiz dates may vary. The grading scale for Biology I is listed below.

Assignment Percentage of Nine Weeks Grade:

Assignment	Estimated Point Values (per occurrence)
Tests	60-120
Quizzes	10-50
Homework	10-25
Lab work / class work	20-50

Grading Procedures for Final Averages:

First Semester: Nine-weeks grades are 40% each and the First Semester Exam is 20%.

Second Semester: Nine-weeks grades are 40% each, and the second semester exam is 20%.

First sem grade (42.5%) + second sem grade (42.5%) + state EOC (15%) = year grade

V. Late Work

Assignments may be submitted late. However, points will be deducted. Assignments submitted one school day late will lose 10% of the available points. Assignments submitted two school days late will lose an additional 10% of the originally available points.

Assignments submitted more than two school days late will not receive any credit.

VI. Guidelines for the Classroom

1. RESPECT = Respect everyone including yourself. Use respectful language, and behave politely and respectfully. Remember the Golden Rule.
2. RESPONSIBILITY = Accept responsibility for your actions. Behave in a responsible and appropriate manner. (No horseplay.)
3. No food or drinks in the classroom or the computer labs.
4. Clean workspace prior to leaving class.
5. All assignments should be completed by the deadline provided by the instructor.
6. Be prepared for class every day. It is the responsibility of the student to have the necessary materials for class (textbook, pen, pencil, notebook, etc.). Students who do not have their textbooks with them in class when the class is using textbooks will have 3 points deducted from the applicable assignment(s). ***The materials required for this class include a binder with both notebook and graph paper, pencil, and headphones (small, cheap ear buds).***
7. The instructor reserves the right to remove any student from the lab should that student jeopardize the safety of himself / herself or of another student.
8. If a student has a least one disciplinary referral, that student may not be allowed to participate in field trips or other special activities.
9. Students should never use cellular devices in class unless the instructor specifically directs the students to do so. Students whose cellular devices alert (ring, vibrate, etc.) during class will be referred for disciplinary action. Cellular devices should remain off and in lockers.
10. Students who cheat / plagiarize assignments will receive no credit for that assignment. In addition, any student who allows their work to be copied will also receive no credit for that assignment.

11. Students are responsible for knowing and abiding by all information provided in the student handbook. Ignorance of school policies is not an excuse for violation of school policies.

VII. CANVAS Expectations

Students are responsible for knowing how to navigate CANVAS successfully. For this class, each day's assignment(s) is/are arranged chronologically and are posted in the *Daily Modules* section. Thus, students should always check the *Daily Modules* section for any / all work. In addition, we use the CANVAS calendar extensively. All assignments (including exams) and their due dates are posted on the CANVAS calendar.

VIII. Academic Integrity

Plagiarism/Cheating

University School is responsible for maintaining academic integrity for all of its students. It is the responsibility of the students to refrain from infractions of academic integrity, from conduct that may lead to suspicion of such infractions, and from conduct that aids others in such infractions. Infractions of academic integrity include but are not limited to:

- Cheating (using or attempting to use any information that the student knows is unauthorized)
- Fabrication (unauthorized falsification or invention of information in an academic assignment)
- Plagiarism (representing the words or ideas of another as one's own ideas, including copying from another person's paper and using Artificial Intelligence sites (AI) without proper citations)
- Facilitating infractions of academic integrity (Helping or attempting to help another commit an infraction of academic integrity)

The above policy includes copying homework, lab papers, workbooks, and tests materials. It also includes using the on-line translators in world languages. Students who facilitate cheating will receive the same consequences as those who copy the work.

Students caught plagiarizing/cheating will be addressed by teacher and/or school administration. Incidents of cheating or plagiarism could result in a disciplinary referral and loss of credit for the given assignment. Repeat offenses may result in additional disciplinary action at the discretion of the administration.

Continue reading below for the Responsible Use Policy regarding personal electronic devices.

University School Responsible Use Policy (RUP) Grades 6-12

Internet access* is available for all students only as an educational resource.

- I will not go to websites that are not appropriate for learning.
- I will inform a teacher immediately if any inappropriate sites are accessed while I am online.
- I will not attempt to bypass the Internet filter to access a blocked website.
- I will not remotely access computers outside the system's network.

**Internet access is provided on-campus for all students. These policies also apply when using district-issued devices off-campus through other public or private networks.*

The computer, software, wireless devices, and network are available for all students only as an educational resource.

- I will treat the computers, all devices, and hardware with respect and not cause damage to them.
- I will not share my usernames and passwords with anyone nor will I use another student's username and password.
- I will not share my device, charger, or other school-issued equipment with others.
- I will transport my device using my school-issued sleeve and handle my device using communicated procedures.
- I will not access, alter, or delete another person's information/files on any computer or device.
- I will follow copyright law in my projects and give credit to my resources (authors and/or websites).
- I understand that teachers and administrators may monitor all student activities on the network and devices on and off campus.
- I will not use the device to illegally distribute, install, or reproduce copyrighted materials.
- I will not use the device to facilitate any illegal activity, or use it for commercial or for-profit use.
- I will not use the computer network to attempt to gain unauthorized or unlawful access to other computers, computer systems, or accounts.
- I will not utilize school district or individual school names, logos, or trademarks without permission.
- I understand that students are responsible for storing and backing up their own data.

School-issued devices are set-up and the software programs are selected for all students only as an educational resource.

- I will not download, install, or remove software/apps or media without permission and direction from a teacher.
- I will not personalize the external appearance of my school-issued device.
- I will not change the district settings on my device.
- I will not remove the asset tag or any licensing tags or manufacturers stickers from the bottom of the device.
- I will immediately notify my teacher, the building level technology coordinator, or designee if I identify a security problem or other issue on a technological resource, and I will not demonstrate the problem to others.

Good Digital Citizenship should be practiced on and off campus.

- I will only use online communication (email, instant messaging, chat rooms, blogs, wikis, etc.) for educational purposes on school-issued devices.
- I understand that all school-issued email communications are stored and may be accessed and examined by teachers and administrators at any time.
- I will always use proper and appropriate language and my best writing skills (including adhering to copyright policies).
- I will never give or post personal information (my name, address, telephone number, etc.) to someone online.
- I will never use online communication to harass or bully anyone.

- I will not engage in creating, intentionally viewing, accessing, downloading, storing, printing, or transmitting content that is obscene, profane, pornographic, harassing, abusive, or considered harmful to minors.
- I understand that I should not share or post pictures or recordings of other individuals without their consent (or parental consent for minors).

Personal Devices should be only used as an educational resource (cell phone, Kindle, iPad, etc.)

- I will only use personal wireless devices at school with teacher permission and supervision orduring designated times determined by the administration.
- I will accept all responsibility if my device is lost, stolen, or damaged.
- Teachers and administrators have a right to examine any personal device at any time.
- My teachers and or my school may set additional requirements and restrictions for personal devices.

School Email

- University School may provide students with a **closed-campus** email account.
- Email usage may be monitored and archived. There is no expectation of privacy with schoolemail accounts.

If I don't follow the RUP:

- I may lose the privilege of using computers, personal devices, and/or the Internet at school.
- I may lose the privilege of taking a device off-campus.
- I understand that I may be held financially responsible for any deliberate or negligent damage to equipment and for loss or theft of the equipment while in my possession or when I am charged with its care (see below).
- I understand that the administration will determine disciplinary and/or financial consequences for Responsible Use Policy (RUP) violations.
- I understand that certain willful misuse may result in criminal prosecution under applicable state and federal law.

School-Issued Device Damage Charge Information

Damage caused by willful or deliberate actions would be the financial responsibility of the family (repair or replacement cost).