

HONORS BIOLOGY OF THE LIVING EARTH COURSE SYLLABUS – 2024/2025

INSTRUCTOR: MR. GIBSON

EMAIL: DUSTIN_GIBSON@CHINO.K12.CA.US

Introduction

Biology is the study of living organisms. The major concepts that will be covered in this course include cell biology, genetics, ecology, evolution, physiology, and the scientific process. It is aligned with the Biology Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and satisfies one year of the high school graduation requirement for science. It also fulfills one year of the University of California laboratory science section of the subject "A-G" requirements for admission. Any biology labs and simulations students will perform during the year as part of this course will require high level critical thinking skills, active problem solving, cooperative work, and independent learning. Honors Biology will prepare students for future honors and Advanced Placement (AP) science classes.

Class Textbook, Website & Materials

The traditional class text, *Experience Biology* by Miller and Levine, can be checked out from the library and left at home for use with independent reading and homework assignments. Students should not write in textbooks.

Important course materials, assignments, supplementary reading, and information, including announcements, can be found on the Google Classroom course website. To join the Google Classroom, use the code that will be provided in class once you've received your Chromebook. When required, course resources should be printed and brought to class. If you do not have access to a computer and/or printer, you must discuss other arrangements with me as soon as possible. Enrollment in an honors level course means students are responsible for their own success. There is no excuse for late work, lack of materials, lack of preparedness, or ignorance of information addressed in class and/or posted on our Google Classroom.

Students must come to class prepared and ready to learn. As such, the following materials are suggested for you to be successful:

- College-ruled lined paper
- 1 inch three ring binder (*you do not need one specifically dedicated to this class*)
- No. 2 pencil & pencil sharpener/lead
- Black or blue ink pen
- Colored pencils (*at least a 12-count package*)
- Materials and/or resources printed from our Google Classroom (*when instructed to have them*)

Attendance

Students will be presented with a large volume of information in order to comprehend the complexities found in the study of biology. Students with poor attendance will find it difficult to keep up with the pace of the course. Make sure that any absences are cleared through the attendance office, as make up assignments and/or exams are prohibited for un-cleared absences or truanancies. If you must be absent, refer to our Google Classroom for assignments. Students are responsible for obtaining any missed assignments and/or assessments from the instructor. For unique cases, please refer to the following:

- The number of days of the absence will determine how many days you have to make up the work. (Ex: 1 day absent = 1 day to complete work).
- If you are absent on a day scheduled as a review day for an assessment AND that assessment occurs the next day AND you are in attendance on exam day, you will be required to take the exam.
- If you are absent the day of an exam, then you are required to make up the exam *in class* the first day that you return.
- Note: All make-up assessments will be a different version than those taken during the scheduled day of the assessment.

Late Assignment Policy

- Homework and/or labs that are turned in late will receive a *maximum* of 50%.
- Homework and/or labs that are turned in beyond 6 weeks late will NOT be accepted.
- OOPS PASS Policy: An OOPS Pass may be used to turn in an assignment late up to four days with no penalty. No more than three OOPS Passes total may be used per semester.
- HW PASS Policy: A HW Pass may be used to skip an assignment. Only ONE may be used per semester; not valid for laboratory activities/reports, projects, or packets. A HW Pass may only be used for a homework assignment. It is a singular privilege; as such, be wise if or when you use it.
- If there is an emergency or other extenuating circumstance, I must be informed BEFORE the assignment is due in order to make appropriate arrangements.

Grading Policy

Grades can be accessed online via the student and/or parent Aeries Portal. Aeries Portal access can be obtained in the office. Overall grades will be weighted as follows:

Assessments – Summative (e.g. exams, semester finals)	45%
Assessments – Formative (e.g. quizzes, FRQs)	20%
Laboratory & Projects (e.g. laboratory activities, laboratory reports, etc.)	20%
Assignments (e.g. classwork, homework, binder checks, participation, etc.)	15%

Grading Scale

A+	98% and ABOVE	B+	87 – 89%	C+	77 – 79%	D+	67 – 69%	F	59% and BELOW
A	93 – 97%	B	83 – 86%	C	73 – 76%	D	63 – 66%		
A-	90 – 92%	B-	80 – 82%	C-	70 – 72%	D-	60 – 62%		

All students begin each semester with a “*Satisfactory*” mark in citizenship and work habits. Students must show the characteristics of an “*Outstanding*” to earn that mark. Students whose cell phones are confiscated or who are tardy three times in a semester will automatically receive a “*Needs Improvement*” mark for their citizenship grade. Students whose cell phones are confiscated or who are tardy five times or more in a semester will automatically receive an “*Unsatisfactory*” mark for their citizenship grade. Students with one missing assignment will automatically receive a “*Needs Improvement*” mark for their work habits grade. Students with more than one missing assignment will automatically receive an “*Unsatisfactory*” mark for their work habits grade.

Class Policies & Student Behavior

This is an honors science course. As such, students will be expected to act in accordance with school and classroom policies. Students will be expected to uphold the following policies at all times:

- **Mutual Respect:** Disrespect of any kind will not be tolerated. Students will respect themselves, and show respect to the instructor, their classmates, and the classroom. Behave with maturity and respect by actively listening when someone else, whether the instructor or a peer, is speaking. Respect our classroom by disposing of trash in the proper receptacles, cleaning up after laboratories, and treating books and classroom supplies with care. Respect must be shown to any specimens that are dissected. Immaturity and disrespect during any dissection will not be tolerated and may result in a significant loss of points, an automatic “*Unsatisfactory*” in citizenship, and/or removal from the course.
- **Academic Integrity & Honesty:** Cheating in any form is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Please see the school handbook for further clarification of academic honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with the school’s policies on what constitutes academic dishonesty and the repercussions that will follow violations of said policies.
- **Dress Code:** The school dress code, including the wearing of hats, sweatshirt hoods, and sunglasses in class, as outlined in the student handbook will be enforced at all times.
- **Electronic Devices:** Electronic devices, when not utilized as a teacher-directed learning tool, are prohibited in class. This includes the use of cell phones and music. Cell phones must be kept off or on silent and put away. If the above items are brought out during class, I will confiscate them for the duration of the period. If confiscation occurs more than once, you will be given a property receipt and must pick up your property in the front office at the end of the day, per school policy. Cell phones must be stored in student bags and out of sight for the *entirety* of the period on exam days. Failure to do so will result in a score of zero on the exam.
- **Food:** This classroom is a laboratory, as such, absolutely no food, gum, or drinks other than water are allowed.
- **Restroom:** Students are expected to use the restroom, if necessary, during passing periods before or after class. Refer to the restroom passes policy on Google Classroom.

Violation of Policies

Students will be expected to act in accordance with school and classroom policies. If violation of the above policies occurs, the following actions will *generally* be taken:

- Verbal Warning
- Detention
- Loss of participation points and/or lowering of Work Habits or Citizenship grade

- Meeting with the Principal
- Suspension/Expulsion

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Please sign and return this page acknowledging that both student and parent/guardian have read and understand the Honors Biology class expectations as outlined in the preceding pages. In addition, signature of this page indicates familiarization with the Ruben S. Ayala High School policies found in the school handbook.

Student Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Signature

e-mail of parent/guardian

If you have any questions for me, feel free to write them below and I will get back to you as soon as possible. I'm looking forward to a wonderful year!