

Course Expectations



Biology 1 Honors

Course Description

This one year course is designed around introductory biological concepts designed for the **academically-oriented student**. Emphasis is placed on developing critical-thinking skills, research skills & laboratory techniques. **Independent study projects and inquiry-based learning experiences are integral parts of the course requirements.** This course will fulfill one of the science credits required for high school graduation and the college entrance requirements for a laboratory science.

Upon completion of this course, you will learn to reason scientifically & think flexibly, as well as improve your problem-solving skills, reinforce your communication skills, and learn a wide range of scientific concepts. You will also learn to value science and understand the connections between yourselves and the world around you, and how these connections are shaped.

Pre-requisites: **Algebra 1 & "B" or higher in Science 8**

Textbook: Modern Biology, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 2006

Students will be issued a copy at the start of the course and are responsible for its safe return when they leave the class. If the book is not returned, the student will be issued a fine, payable to the school banker prior to graduation.

Course Overview

1. *Course Content:*

We will be studying introductory biological concepts this year, including: **Ecosystem Dynamics/Interactions, Matter & Energy in Ecosystems, DNA & Heredity, Evolution/Natural Selection, and Homeostasis**

Laboratory Safety:

Safety is not a joke. In the lab you have the potential to be dealing with potentially dangerous items. Students will be thoroughly instructed in the techniques for handling such equipment and materials. It is important that the student wear appropriate safety clothing (eye ware, gloves, and apron) when deemed necessary by the teacher. It is important that the student follow lab safety rules, adhere to experiment directions, and remain focused at all times in the laboratory. Failure to do so can result in harm to the student and those around him/her. Because of that, **NO HORSEPLAY or CARELESS behavior WILL BE TOLERATED!** Penalties for failure to adhere to these rules will be immediate and severe.

Materials Needed

1. Spiral Notebook (Interactive Notebook) - COLLEGE RULED paper ****3 or 5 subject size is recommended**
2. Composition Notebook (Lab Notebook) – College ruled or graph paper recommended
3. Glue - stick or liquid
4. Box of colored pencils or crayons
5. Highlighters or colored pens
6. Pencils and Pens (BLACK OR BLUE INK ONLY for some assignments)
7. Graph Paper (separate or in the lab NB)
8. Calculator (*OPTIONAL, but highly recommended. Calculators on cell phones are NOT allowed.*)

Website

Be sure to check the website <https://ranchobiology.educatorpages.com/> often. Important reminders, class notes, handouts, and homework are posted there, as well as the parts of the interactive notebook



Grading

Grades are based on points earned for completing homework, quizzes, tests, labs, and projects. (*Participation falls under every one of these... you need to do stuff to pass!!!*)

- ✓ **Classwork & Homework** is worth **10%** of your total grade. These assignments are necessary to get you ready for tests, but allow you to “mess up” a bit while learning, without damaging your overall grade significantly. The only way to do poorly in this category is to not do these assignments at all – that tells me you aren’t trying and your grade will reflect that.
- ✓ In Biology class, I need to know that you can “do science”. In other words, labs are an important part of class & the report you turn in is the evidence of your learning. **Lab Reports & Projects** make up **30%** of your grade.
- ✓ **Tests** make up the majority of your grade (**60%**). I need to know that you learned the content, and you need to know if you are prepared to go on. Tests should NOT be taken lightly and you will need to prepare for them (not just look over your notes before the test)!!

Your **SEMESTER** grade is based on your Quarter grades (40% each Quarter) and the CUMULATIVE final (20%).

Grading Scale

A = 90% and above
B = 80 – 89.9%
C = 70 – 79.9%
D = 60 – 69.9%
F = 59.9% and below



1. Class Assignments:

- Tests and Quizzes:** There will be a short “weekly checkup” **quiz EVERY Weekend** on what has been discussed throughout the week. These can be taken online over the weekend or students may pick up a paper copy from the door after school on Friday and turn it back in to the folder Monday **before** school starts. Other quizzes will occur at the teacher’s discretion. Unit tests are announced at least 1 week ahead of time.
- Homework:** Homework should be done when assigned. Assignments will be checked as you enter class on the due date. **LATE WORK WILL NOT BE STAMPED!!** **No matter why it is late – absences do NOT get stamped when the student returns! Partial points are given for completed, unstamped work. All points will be compiled during notebook checks.
- Labs:** Science is a lab based class; therefore we will be completing laboratory experiments. Cooperation & safety are extremely important during those times. A “pre-lab” report will be checked before you are allowed to do the lab, in order to make sure you are prepared. Late lab reports will receive adjusted scores: 1 day late = max grade of 75%, 2-5 days late = 50% max score, more than 1 week late will not be accepted. If you are **absent on a lab day**, you will be responsible for writing an essay covering the topics studied during the lab **or** coming in after school to complete the work, depending on the lab activity.
- Notebook Checks:** To see how well you keep and organize papers, and other materials given out in class, **EVERYTHING** done for the class (notes, homework, worksheets, etc) need to be kept in the notebook until the end of the semester. If it is **NOT PRESENT** on the day of the notebook check, you **WILL RECEIVE AN F**.
- Classwork:** Work assigned in class must be done in class and turned in when requested. If you choose not to complete the classwork, you will receive an F.
- Absent Work:** If absent, it is your responsibility to check for assignments missed before or after class. Topics and assignments are listed on the website and written on the calendar daily. Any papers will be in the class folder. Work that was due while you were out is due the day you return. You have one day for each day that you are absent to make up the work that you were absent for. **ABSOLUTELY NO LATE WORK** will be accepted 2 weeks before the final!!
- Extra Credit:** Your grade will not be based on ‘what can you quickly do at the last minute’, but rather what kind of work you turn in all semester long... remember that. Even so, many of us need a little “boost” from time to time. You can earn points by helping around the classroom after school: sweeping floors, cleaning desks, and/or bringing in classroom supplies (glue, tissue, paper towels, etc...)

2. Special Assignments:

- Quarterly Projects:** During the year, you will be required to complete 4 **research based projects**. Proper formatting and citations will be a **major** requirement. Plagiarism will NOT be tolerated (*see below*).
- Unit Projects:** Outside of class projects will be assigned during some units. Complete requirements will be given at the time.

3. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Plagiarism in a school environment is academic dishonesty ... aka: **CHEATING**. It will not be tolerated and, if discovered, will be dealt with severely. The consequences may include receiving a grade of 0% on that assignment, failing the course, and/or being RPC'd or expelled from Rancho High School.

In *Webster's Dictionary*, **plagiarism** is defined as:

1. To steal and pass off (the ideas of another) as one's own.
2. To use (a created production) without crediting the source.
3. To commit literary theft.
4. To present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source.

Directly copying someone else's work and then taking full credit for it is the most flagrant kind of plagiarism. However, there are other, more subtle forms of plagiarism. For example, in a science course:

1. **Copying someone else's ideas and answers on a test or quiz is cheating.**
2. **Giving or receiving information on exams outside the classroom is cheating.**
3. Accepting or giving help during a test or quiz, or using a calculator or notes without expressed permission of the teacher. (This includes using notes stored on a calculator.)
4. **Directly copying someone's homework is plagiarism.** Working together on assignments is acceptable if ideas are shared, but the actual transcription onto paper must be an individual effort.
5. **Directly copying answers from a text is plagiarism.** It is usually not necessary to credit one's own text when giving answers, but ideas from any other book must be footnoted.
6. Science research papers are governed by the same rules that apply to all research papers. Facts and commonly accepted ideas need not be acknowledged, but all opinions, interpretations of facts, original ideas, charts, and direct quotes must be footnoted.
7. Using someone else's data without giving credit or, **worse**, making up data to fit the expected answer are forms of plagiarism. It is acceptable to present your own obviously erroneous data, to state the reasons that you feel the results should be disregarded, and then to present another student's data – making sure that the source is acknowledged.

The educational process is based on the principle that the less educated learn from the ideas of the more educated. Students should, therefore, use ideas and opinions of others. This is not plagiarism. Plagiarism occurs when this use is NOT acknowledged.

How and when students will be advised of their grades:

Academic grades will be posted on Infinite Campus; Students should review this posting to identify missing assignments. Never discard any assignment, quiz, or test until you see your grade posted on the printout. I, and the student aides, do make mistakes. If I fail to post a grade for you, you will be easily able to produce the graded assignment to correct our error.

"Progress Report" notices are handed out to students approximately every 9 weeks. An unsatisfactory comment (ex: "in danger of failing") will be issued to you if you have less than a 75% in the class.

Attendance:

In reference to CCSD Regulation 5113, Rancho High School follows the "11th Unexcused Absence/ No Credit Policy". See the following website for more information on Regulation 5113:

http://www.ccsd.net/pol-reg/pdf/5113_R.pdf

Classroom Rules: (Or the top 10 ways to make Mrs. Crouch happy and therefore keep the class happy!)

1. **Bring materials to class.** You should bring your text daily, along with your calculator, and materials to take notes. **Do NOT bring food or drink, as part of this room is a working laboratory**, and eating in the class is dangerous to your health!! (However, this IS Vegas, so water bottles are allowed)



2. In regards to "Cell Phone Manners and Courtesy":

CELL PHONES ARE NOT TO BE USED, IN ANY WAY SHAPE OR FORM, DURING CLASS.

This is VERY rude, and is NOT acceptable in a SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT.

IF I SEE YOU USE YOUR CELL PHONE IN ANY WAY SHAPE OR FORM (this includes texting),

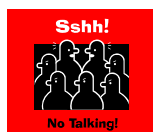
I WILL CONFISCATE IT!



3. If you are going to be/have been absent, it is **YOUR responsibility** to see me about the make-up assignment(s). Do this after class, **NOT DURING!** (*It is considered RUDE to expect a teacher to STOP class to take care of YOUR problems*). Assignments are also posted online every day; this information is available on the web site as well on the calendar in the classroom.

For homework and tests, you have as many **school days** to turn in the assignment as you were absent. For labs, you need to talk with the teacher regarding that particular assignment.

4. **Do your homework** - the only way to succeed is to practice! Class time is for working, not playing. Biology assignments come first. Should you complete your classroom assignment, then you may work on something else. Wasting time (playing cards, listening to iPods/mp3 players, etc.) will NOT be tolerated.



5. **Do not talk** while someone else (especially your teacher) is talking. **Please raise your hand** if you have a question and I will call on you as soon as I am at a stopping point. Remember, this is an HONORS course, and I expect the students to behave accordingly.

6. While attendance is taken at the beginning of class, get your materials ready to take notes. Please be on time. **You are considered tardy if you enter the doorway after the bell sounds.**

7. Follow all instructions, especially in the laboratory. We are often dealing with potentially dangerous materials, so dress appropriately for the lab.

8. All school rules will be enforced, and **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR ACTIONS!!**

9. Please do not leave the room unless it is absolutely necessary. You **MUST** have a hall pass. Leaving the room without permission, unless in an emergency situation, will result in a referral.



10. All jokes made by the teacher, no matter how ridiculous you think they are, must be tolerated with a smile 😊

Extra Instruction

I am here for only one reason - to help each of you be successful. Since you don't come to school intending to do poorly, we share a common goal. If you do need extra help, don't be afraid to ask. Please see me after school (I can be found in room 1100 after school most days) or make an "appointment" by telling me you would like to meet.

Discipline

Failure of students to adhere to class or school rules, procedures, and policies will result in a full range of appropriate consequences at the classroom and, if necessary, school administration or legal authority levels. While I want every student to succeed, **I will not hesitate to use all the tools at my disposal to insure that no single student interferes with the success of his/her classmates through inappropriate or improper behavior.**

Note for Parents

Successful students have at least two groups of adults monitoring and encouraging them to do well – teachers and parents/guardians. Most students need both. You can help me help your student be successful in the following ways:

1. Emphasize the importance of homework and of completing all assigned work on time. Ensure your student has a quiet place/ time in which to study at home each night.
2. Help your student with time management. Assist him/her in balancing his/her time appropriately between school work, chores, and relaxation time.
3. While my goal is to help your child to succeed, and to be there for them when they need help, I am also here for you. Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. You can e-mail me or you can call the school at **799-7000** to set up an appointment through your student's counselor.
4. Please check the website for information about what your student should be doing in class. Important updates are posted there, as well as notes, homework assignments, and reminders.

<https://ranchobiology.educatorpages.com/>

