

South Texas Preparatory Academy

"Building a Legion of Learners"

Biology

Mr. D. Rodriguez
Room 203
Conference period: 4A and 4B
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Course Description

Biology is the study of the living world, including microscopic organisms, fungi, plants, and animals. In Biology it is important to attempt to understand the life processes of organisms. This biology course, therefore, is aimed at introducing principles and concepts that apply to life at all levels of organization, no matter how simple or complex they may be. Our study begins by examining those general characteristics that are shared by all living things. These include similarities in chemical makeup, energy usage, ability to reproduce and community involvement. In addition, the following themes will be developed as the course progresses:

- Relatedness among living things.
- Adaptation for survival among living things.
- The interactions of living things with their environment.

Adopted Textbook: 2015. Texas Biology. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

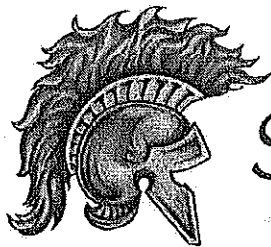
Materials

2 Composition book (70-100 page)
Paper, Pens and Pencils
Pencil sharpener
Sticky notes/post-it notes (helpful)
4 function calculator (helpful)
Highlighter (helpful)
Colored pencils (helpful)

Grading

40% of the course average will come from tests and projects
30% of the course average will come from quizzes
10% of the course average will come from mini-quizzes (covers one section/usually same day)
20% of the course average will come from daily work

75% of course average is calculated from the weighted categories described above and 25% from a cumulative semester exam. Student must pass the STARR Biology End-of Course Exam to receive credit for the course. Academic Contracts for credit recovery will not be offered at the end of semester.



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Daily work guidelines

Homework is due at the beginning of the period on the due date. Students absent on a day work is assigned shall be given the same amount of time to complete the assignment as the rest of the class. Students absent on the day work is due should turn in their work on the next day the student is in class. A student failing to submit homework on time will incur a 15-point penalty. Any late work turned in after the beginning of the next class meeting will incur a 50 point penalty. Students may turn in late work up to the day of the next exam.

Lab Work

Most lab work will be a team effort. Each member of a team is expected to contribute towards achieving the lab objectives. For the safety of the student and others, any student not following lab safety procedures will be removed from the lab and given an alternate assignment and/or disciplinary action at the discretion of the instructor.

Tests and Quizzes

Quizzes are designed to monitor the students' progress and will be administered on a regular basis. They may be announced or unannounced.

Tests will be scheduled after every major topic (generally 1-2 chapters). Students may retake a test one time. It will be an alternate test on a designated day. Students will be required to retake the test within five school days. There are no retakes given for the Semester Exam. Academic contracts for credit recovery will not be issued at the end of the year.

Pyramid of Interventions

The objective of this class is for every student to be successful in demonstrating mastery of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Students not successfully progressing will be assisted using the pyramid of interventions. These interventions may include special class activities and assignments and/or required tutoring during the school day or after school.

Teacher

Principal

I have received a copy of this course outline.

Student Signature

Date

Print Name

Parent Signature