

CAPITAL HIGH SCHOOL
Honors Biology I Syllabus
2019-2020



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Course Description

Honors Biology 1 is a survey course in the Life Sciences designed to challenge the advanced student. It requires hands-on lab investigations, teamwork and a curiosity for the way living things work. On a daily basis we will engage in the thought processes and actions of science. There will be an emphasis on not only *doing* science, but also the application of biological knowledge and critical thinking in relation to environmental and social concerns. The rigor of this course will require a high level of commitment and effort from the honors student. It is more in-depth and faster paced than the regular biology course, with a greater emphasis on critical thinking and independent learning. Successful completion of this class will better prepare students for other advanced level courses. Over the course of the year we will study the nature of science, biochemistry, cells, genetics, evolution, the classification and diversity of life, and ecology.

Expectations

Expectations align with the Capital Code of **Be Responsible, Be Respectful, and Be a Graduate**. We will use these overarching tenets to guide our class community with the primary goal of creating and maintaining a safe positive environment in which EVERYONE can learn. Below are specific examples of how these expectations are practiced within the science classroom.

Be Responsible	Be Respectful	Be a Graduate
Be on time and prepared for class. Follow all safety and emergency procedures. Use your class time productively. Take responsibility for your actions.	Use appropriate language. Treat others with respect at all times. Unkind words and actions will not be tolerated. Take care of school property, including books and equipment.	Be an active participant. Meet or exceed graduation requirements. Keep up with the assignments, prepare for tests and quizzes, and talk to me if you need help.

Classroom Policies

- **Cell phones/ipods/tablets/headphones:** *Absolutely* no use of any of these during instructional time unless *explicitly* stated by the instructor. Inappropriate electronic use is a distraction to you and the learning environment. Cell phones need to be silenced/turned off and stored out of site. If I see it, we will follow the procedures outlined in the student handbook. I have zero tolerance for cell phones during tests or quizzes. If a cell phone is used during those times, the student will receive a zero on the test or quiz, no exceptions.
- **Food/Drink:** A small, non-messy snack (not a full meal) can be eaten during class time (except no food allowed during labs). Only water and nutritional drinks are allowed in the classroom.
- **Labs:** Follow all safety rules. I have zero tolerance for inappropriate behavior in the lab or not following lab instructions. The first time you will get a warning. The second time, you will get a zero on the lab.

Materials

1. A composition notebook for notes, activities, and labs. I will be collecting these occasionally for a grade.
2. A three-ring binder or folder for storing handouts and assignments.
3. A pencil for writing. Colored pencils will be used often. You may want to bring your own.
4. Textbook: Starr, Taggart, Evers, and Starr *Biology: The Unity and Diversity of Life*, 2010. There will be a set of textbooks available in the classroom.

Homework, Late Work and Make-Up Work

- This is an honors class. Students should expect science “homework” such as reading, review questions, practice worksheets or completing an assignment or project started in class that requires additional time.
- I expect assignments to be turned in complete and on time. Late work will be accepted for 50% credit **up to the end of the unit of study.**
- Make-up work:
 - Follow the CHS handbook rules on make-up work for school activities. Note that missing class for school-sponsored activities does not count as an absence. Assign work will be due as scheduled.
 - It is your responsibility to schedule a time to make-up missed quizzes, labs, test, etc.
 - I am available before 8:20 AM, after 3:15 PM, and most days during 3rd or 5th periods for make-up work or help. Please see me and schedule a time.

Quarter Homework Ticket Procedures

Each student will be issued three “homework tickets” at the beginning of each quarter. They are for students to hold on to, and to use for excusing late homework – not applicable to tests, quizzes, and large projects. Tickets saved until the end of the quarter may be turned in for extra credit. Note that the assignment must be completed with the ticket attached to the assignment in order to receive the full credit earned by the student for the assignment. Homework tickets will only be accepted on assignments **up to one week following the due date or the end of the unit of study (which ever comes first).**

Grades

- Biology grades are based on a percentage of total points possible from classwork, homework, science notebooks, labs, quizzes, tests, projects, and participation.
- **Semester Grade = 40% Quarter 1 + 40% Quarter 2 + 20% Semester Test.**
- Grades are assigned using the school grading. It is as follows:

91 – 100	= A	78 – 79.99	= C+	60 – 61.99	= D-
90 – 91.99	= A-	72 – 77.99	= C	60 and below	= F
88 – 89.99	= B+	70 – 71.99	= C-		
82 – 87.99	= B	68 – 69.99	= D+		
80 – 81.99	= B-	62 – 67.99	= D		
- Grades can be checked online any time using Power School. Check your grades often!
- It is your responsibility to check for any missing assignment or make-up work you may have missed.

Website

Our class website, available at <http://plackohelena.weebly.com> contains information on daily class activities and assignments, important announcements, and links to valuable resources.

Signatures

Please sign and date below indicating that you and your parent/guardian have read and understand these class policies and expectations.

_____/_____
Student name (print) Signature Date

_____/_____
Parent/Guardian name (print) Signature Date