

AC Jones High School

Biology Syllabus

Mr. Terry Foster M.Ed
Room: 307 Science Wing
Tutorials: M - TH. 3:55 - 4:20pm

Conference Period: 6th Period
(1:00pm - 1:30pm)
School Phone: (361) 362-6000
Email: tfoster@beevilleisd.net

Course Objectives:

Biology is the study of life. Students will study living organisms and their similarities and differences. Students will investigate how living organisms interact with each other and their environment. Students will also study and use the scientific method to look at problems objectively and make intelligent decisions concerning biological issues. This course will prepare students for the biology objectives tested on EOC and will help them achieve mastery level. This course will also teach students about the importance of biology in their every day lives.

Philosophy of teaching & Learning

Recognizing that complex scientific topics such as climate change and stem cells are increasingly making their way into conversations and decision-making in daily life, one of my central goals as an educator is to promote scientific literacy among my biology students' lives. Throughout my teaching career, I have always sought to foster science literacy throughout my science education classes. My approach as an educator has been to foster enthusiasm and interest in science and develop critical thinking skills in my students that will enable them to understand and appreciate science in the world around them. Cultivating an enthusiasm for science is an important element of establishing scientifically literate students with a lifelong interest in science

Grading Guidelines:

Major-- 40 %: Tests, Notebook (you must provide), some projects

Minor-- 60 %: Homework, quizzes, daily grades, labs, group work

Late Work Policy

1 Day---70 possible points ** 2 Days ----50 possible points ** 3 Days--- 0 or discretionary

Science Journal & Binder

Each student will be required to maintain a binder of ALL work assigned in the class. A science journal will be used daily for note-taking, labs, reflections, and vocabulary. The purpose of the binder and journal is to ensure accurate grades are maintained, track student's progress, be used as a study tool, and to be available for parental inspection. Folder & journal maintenance will be the responsibility of the student. Items are not to be discarded until the end of the school year. Folders and journals will be checked for completeness at the end of each nine weeks for a major grade.

*****Do not lose your Notebook or you will have to start over each time.*****

Labs

No student will be allowed to perform a lab without the student and parent reading, signing, and returning a copy of the Lab Safety Contract. If the student or parent refuses to sign the contract, alternate work will be assigned. However, this work will not be as beneficial as the actual lab experience. Failure to abide by the lab safety contract will result in a grade of ZERO for the activity. Three violations of the contract will result in suspension of lab privileges for the student for the remainder of the semester. Alternate work will be assigned. If absent during a lab that cannot be made up, an alternate assignment will be given.

Absences

- 3 days to make up work from the day you return; speak to me about special circumstances
- **YOU** are responsible for obtaining makeup work
- Group projects assigned while absent will be completed individually

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School Events

- Students are expected to request assigned work before they are scheduled to miss school
- Work is due the day student returns unless other arrangements have been made

Biology Units of Study & Timeline (subject to change)

1st Semester

1st Nine Weeks

Introduction: Safety, Scientific Method, and Contributions

Unit #1: Cell structure

Unit #2: The Cell Cycle

Unit #3: Cellular Processes for Homeostasis

Unit #4: Cellular Processes for Energy

2nd Nine Weeks

Unit #5: The Role of Nucleic Acids and Protein Synthesis

Unit #6: Genetics & Epigenetics

2nd Semester

3rd Nine Weeks

Unit #7: Evolution

Unit #8: Taxonomy

Unit #9: Animal Systems

4th Nine Weeks

Unit #10: Plant System

Unit #11: Ecosystems

Unit #12: Current Developments in Biology

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