

Biology A Course Syllabus

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is an exciting look into the study of life sciences. Students will begin the year focused on life science at the cellular level and progress on to studying whole organisms and their interactions with the environment. This is a sophomore level class, and will address the Next Generation Science Standards as adopted by the state of Oregon, as well as compiling scientific inquiry and engineering work samples, in addition to required state electronic testing.

COURSE MATERIAL:

*This course **MAY** include the following, but there is no guarantee that we will cover each portion by the completion of the semester. Possible topics are as follows:

1. The Scientific Method
2. Biochemistry
3. Cellular Structure and Function
4. Cellular Energy and Metabolism
5. Cellular Reproduction

MATERIALS NEEDED: Each student will be expected to provide an area for all papers in a binder or a folder. It will be used for storing notes, handouts, and other important information. Students are responsible for their own papers!

ATTENDANCE POLICY: As an instructor, I use many assignments and tests but evaluate you on how much students demonstrate they have learned through project work and other forms of demonstration. This makes attendance very important and students who are expecting to be gone for large portions of this class should see the instructor before leaving.

EVALUATION CRITERIA: This course will be assessed based on a 100% assessment grade; the entire grade is based on the performance of students on particular assessments. However, practice will be tracked for test preparation purposes, but not included in the class grade. Practice for assessments may include, but is not limited to: classroom assignments, homework, spot checks, warm-ups, exit writes, and other classroom tasks. Assessments may include, but are not limited to: summative assessments (tests and quizzes), projects, presentations, speeches, writing samples, science inquiry labs, and state samples. In addition, a student's citizenship and team member certification will be noted as a quantifiable score at marking periods, weighted at 0%. *Assignments will expire two months from the specified due date and will NOT be graded during the school year. For example, if a student doesn't complete a quiz by two months after the date it was originally given, it will not be graded until summer. The missing grade for the assignment will continue to be calculated in the overall grade as incomplete.*

GRADING SCALE: Below is the grading rubric used by all classes taught at Central Linn High School for assessments:

- Z= Assessment was not submitted
- 0= incomplete, not enough evidence to assess
- 1= does not yet meet standard/learning target
- 2= nearly meets standard/learning target
- 3= meets standard/learning target
- 4= exceeds standard/learning target

In this system, there is no "extra credit".

In order to display proficiency on a standard or learning target, a student must attain a **70%** or better on the assigned assessment, which is equivalent to a traditional 'C' grade. The traditional 'D' grades will no longer be awarded to student work. If an assessment is below a 70% score, the student will have the opportunity to retake the assessment and get additional support from the classroom teacher or building support services. If all, or most standards are not

met with passing scores within a grading period, a student may earn an 'F'. However, if a student is making adequate progress toward proficiency and utilizing available resources, students may be assigned an 'incomplete', as decided by the teacher.

GOOGLE CLASSROOM: Materials for each topic taught in class will be available to students on google classroom. This will allow them to review topics using the materials from class. Most teacher powerpoints will be posted here as well as videos from class, some labs, and additional resources referred to in class. The link to join this course is:

<https://classroom.google.com/c/Mzg2MDI2NzkxMjY1?cjc=5hfyp6c>

SCIENCE STANDARDS ADDRESSED: The standards that may be included in this course can be found at the link below in a document that specifies the material to be covered.

http://www.ode.state.or.us/teachlearn/subjects/science/curriculum/orscistand-ngss-g9-12_2014.doc

PINNACLE INTERNET VIEWER: The Pinnacle parent portal allows you to monitor student grades, attendance, and any assignment information. PIV offers an email notification option which gives you the flexibility to choose which reports or notifications you would like to receive concerning your student's grades. At Central Linn High School contact Lauri Archer (e-mail lauri.archer@centrallinn.k12.or.us). As soon as you receive your login and password, you may access the PIV web page and acquaint yourself with the available features.

CELL PHONE USE: Students are not permitted to have any personal type of electronic device (including cell phones) during class time. Students will check their phone into the teacher before class begins and will not be able to respond to texts or calls during class. Any violation of a teacher's classroom or school rule regarding the use of electronic devices will result in an office referral and may result in the loss of the privilege of having the device on school grounds.

Please help your student be successful with these expectations by refraining from calling or texting them during class times. If there is an emergency where you must reach your student, please call the front office and a message will be relayed.

COMPUTER RULES: Students are permitted to use the school computers only to conduct school business, or only for instructional needs, or to conduct research related to education consistent with the district's mission or goals. Personal use of district computers including E-mail is strictly prohibited. Students who violate computer rules policy may be subject to discipline. Students who damage computers will be subject to paying restitution to replace or repair the computer. This includes any technology which is assigned to the student by the school.

**All information (grade scale, material covered, attendance grading etc.) within this document is subject to change at teacher's discretion.*

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date

By signing above, I acknowledge and understand the expectations set forth and agree to comply to the best of my ability. I also acknowledge that I have read the above information including the portion on classroom specimens. If I have any specific concerns I agree to contact the instructor.

In an effort to increase communication between Central Linn High School and families, please be sure to provide a functional email address to the office as that is the preferred method of communication.