



The Successful Student's Guide to
Biology I
BIOLOGY I - COURSE 6760
2009-2010 SCHOOL YEAR
Ms. Conley
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799-6800, Room 915

Ladies and gentlemen, you are about to embark on an excellent adventure known as Biology class. What does every person alive have in common? Although in the future this might change, at the present time we all spend our time living on the same planet, the unique and wonderful planet Earth. Sharing this common bond, it is imperative that we respect, understand, and care for the life that is contained on this planet. This class will help you better understand the living world and life processes that surround you every day, in turn making this planet more inhabitable for future generations and hopefully allowing all species to peacefully coexist.

This guide to success is designed to answer general questions you might have about what will be expected this year. It is important that you carefully study this guide and keep it in your notebook. This will be an exciting class and you are going to have the most memorable year you have ever had. As a result, you will do very well. This course will fulfill one of the two science credits required for high school graduation, and will meet college entrance requirements for a laboratory science.

Note: This course expectations packet is subject to change and may be adjusted to meet changing circumstances as the school year progresses. If this occurs, the student will be issued revisions.

Course Overview:

This one-year course is designed as a survey of the biological sciences. The emphasis is on developing inquiry skills and problem-solving techniques which will provide the student with the basis for making wise career and personal choices in areas related to the biological sciences. The course will also familiarize the student with the influences and interrelated nature of science and technology in contemporary society. This course will fulfill one of the two science credits required for high school graduation, and will meet college entrance requirements for a laboratory science.

Course Goals:

1. To apply scientific processes through inquiry. [NS: N.12.A]
2. To use tables, charts, illustrations, and graphs as evidence to justify arguments and claims in presentations. [NS: N.12.A]
3. To safely conduct original scientific investigations using appropriate tools and technology. [NS: N.12.A.4]
4. To evaluate the impacts of science and technology in terms of costs and benefits to society. [NS: N.12.B]
5. To describe the characteristics of life. [NS: L.12.B]
6. To describe molecules associated with living processes. [NS: L.12.B]
7. To explore the characteristics of viruses, bacteria, protists, fungi, plants, and animals. [NS: L.12.C, L.12.D]
8. To explain how genetic information is passed from one generation to another. [NS: L.12.A]
9. To describe how life forms, at all levels of organization, use specialized structures and similar processes to meet the needs of living things. [NS: L.12.B]
10. To investigate the inter-relationships among living and non-living components within ecosystems. [NS: L.12.C]
11. To discuss the diversity of life as explained through the biological principle of change over time. [NS: L.12.D]
12. To explore career opportunities related to the study of biology. [NS: N.12.B]
13. To evaluate moral and ethical issues related to biological concepts. [NS: N.12.B]

14. To demonstrate an understanding of character, ethics, safety skills, and manners appropriate for this course. [NS: N.12.B]

General Rules:

- Be prepared, on time, with a positive attitude every day.
- Always demonstrate respect for yourself, your classmates, the teacher, and all school property; keep your hands, feet, inappropriate comments, and profanity to yourself.
- Follow all instructions the first time they are given.
- Keep your work area clean before, during, and after all classroom activities.
- Safely conduct yourself and properly handle equipment during labs and activities.
- Be honest, trustworthy, and strive for continued improvement.
- Be actively involved by participating, listening, producing quality work, and helping others do the right thing.
- Follow all Coronado High School and Clark County School District rules, policies, and procedures (Refer to Student Planner and CCSD Behavior Guidelines for Secondary Students).
- No cell phones, headphones, PDA's or makeup are to be seen in this room. They will be confiscated and given to the dean.

Ms. Conley's Classroom Policies and Expectations

- You must be seated and started on the Vocabulary Word of the Day, and In Question when the class bell rings or you WILL be considered tardy.
- It is the sole responsibility of the student to come to class prepared with all necessary materials; notebook, textbook, and writing utensil. Failure to do so may affect your grade.
- Pick up all hand outs as you are entering the classroom on the designated table.
- Seating is assigned by me at my discretion; lab partners and groups are assigned by the teacher.
- As part of a school-wide vocabulary program, the word of the day will be posted and written in three column format and kept in a separate section in your biology notebook; vocabulary quizzes will be announced.
- A warm-up assignment will be completed at the start of *every* class period.
- Backpacks and other personal belongings not related to biology will be placed under your table; leave personal items out of sight.
- Bottled water with a lid is permissible; no other food or drink is allowed in classrooms.
- All assignments are posted on the board and will be copied by each student in the student planner; student planners will be randomly checked.
- All assignments will have the same heading (Name, Period, Date); lab reports will have a title page.
- Complete work in pencil, blue or black ink, typed on a computer, or as otherwise instructed.
- All homework is due at the **beginning of the class period** of the due date; turn in work to appropriate shelf.
- A student supply area is maintained in the back of the classroom. All assignments, graded work, and make-up work, are in this area. Keep this area neat.
- We will maintain clean and undamaged room and equipment; student fine cards will be issued for non-accidental damages.
- The student planner is used as a hall pass.
- Use the bathroom during the passing period. One bathroom pass per student will be issued each quarter; each student may earn bonus points in place of using the bathroom pass.
- Remain seated until **you are dismissed by the teacher**. Do not pack up early.

Consequences

All students must behave appropriately in biology class. Behavior that interferes with or distracts another student from learning or interrupts teaching will not be tolerated. If you choose to break a rule or do not follow procedures, the following consequences may be initiated:

- Verbal warning/corrective training
- A writing assignment
- Conference with student
- A phone call home and/or teacher detention
- Dean referral

Attendance/ Tardies

Attending class everyday and being on time shows responsibility and respect. To emphasize the importance of this issue, 10% of your grade will be based on participation. It is impossible to participate if you are not present, or on-time. Students are expected to be prepared and ready to start class when the bell rings. Any class activity missed due to unexcused tardies will not be made up and will result in a zero grade. Arriving late is disruptive to the class, please make your best attempt to be present and on time!

*Students that exceed ten unexcused absences in a semester will receive a failing grade and lose class credit.

Materials:

These MUST be brought with you every day

Cougar Planner

Notebook: Minimum 1½” Binder with Dividers

Pencil and pen

Ruler

Colored Pencils

Calculator

Textbook: (Provided) Biology: The Dynamics of Life, copyright 2000 by Glencoe/McGraw-Hill

Grading Policy:

Grades for each quarter will be calculated by adding the percentage of points available in each of the following areas:

Classwork/Homework	20%
Tests/ Quizzes	40%
Labs/Projects	30%
Participation	10%
Total	100%

Semester Grades will be weighted as follows:

Quarter grades = $45\% \times 2 = 90\%$

Semester exam = 10%

Total for Semester: 100%

Grading Scale

90%-100% = A

80%-89.9% = B

70%-79.9% = C

60%-69.9% = D

Less than 60% will result in a failing grade

Citizenship Grading Scale:

- “O” = Student has achieved a superior performance in the areas of self control, respect, attitude, cooperation, preparedness and excellent attendance.
- “S” = Student has achieved average performance in the areas of self control, respect, attitude, cooperation, preparedness and good attendance.
- “N” = Needs improvement.
- “U” = Student has achieved below average performance in the areas of self control, respect, attitude, cooperation, preparedness, and poor attendance.

Testing

Tests may be in the format of a written test (e.g. multiple choice, true/false), essay exam, or performance based assessment (i.e., practical). A unit exam will be given at the closure of each unit. This will be approximately every 2-3 weeks. Quizzes will be given on a weekly basis, both scheduled or unscheduled (“pop quizzes”). The quizzes are a quick way for the teacher to monitor your understanding of homework, labs, class work, and vocabulary.

Pretest

A pretest will be administered to each student during the first week of class. The pretest will not be used in any way to calculate a student’s grade, but used as a tool to gauge instruction throughout the school year.

Participation

A student's participation grade is based on their ability to get to class on time, have all materials, and follow all rules, procedures, and instructions.

Laboratory Work

Lab work is an integral part of this course. You may be required to submit a formal written lab report for some labs. CHS science department is initiating a departmental wide lab report. You must adhere to the guidelines set forth to complete labs within this format.

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Notebook/Binder

It is extremely important that you keep an organized binder. They should include all work produced throughout the year- class work (including lab reports), homework, vocabulary lists, and notes. All handouts will be 3-hole punched and should be saved in your binder. A well-kept binder will serve as a valuable reference tool when studying for exams and quizzes. Several binder checks will be conducted on a random basis. If you fail to bring your binder on a check day, you will not be allowed to leave class to go get it.

Coronado High School Homework/ Make-Up Work Policy

- Homework assignments will vary. Examples of homework include: work that was not finished during class, studying for quizzes or tests, working on independent study projects, or assignments from the text. All homework is due the following day *unless noted otherwise*. Routine homework assignments will not be accepted late.
- Students who are absent on the day of a previously announced major quiz or test must be prepared to take the assessment immediately upon return from the absence (during class). If this is impossible due to extenuating circumstances, the student will have 3 days to schedule a make-up session.
- After an absence, you have 3 days to make contact and obtain appropriate make up work. You are expected to obtain the work the day that you return to school and complete the work in the same amount of time your classmates had.
- Prearranged work is due the day a student returns from a prearranged absence.
- If you are absent partially (example- medical appointment), you will be required to hand in previously assigned work that is due on that date.
- Major assignments will be penalized 25% each day late. All other assignments will be accepted at my digression.

Scheduling/ Obtaining Make-Up Work

- A monthly chart listing all homework assignments will be kept in the room. Handouts and notes will be available in the crate, or from a friend. Notes missed must be hand copied into your own notebook. It is the sole responsibility of the student to get all make-up assignments from the homework chart or from a friend. If you need any assistance obtaining make-up work, please do so *before or after school*.
- Missing laboratories: An after school lab day will be announced. Due to time constraints, make-up lab days will be held once a month.

Student Assistance

Any student who requires addition help with an assignment or needs to speak to me should see me before or after school. If you stop by the room and I am not there, wait a few moments because I will usually return shortly.

HAVE A GREAT YEAR!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Signature Form: Biology I Ms. Conley

Students: I have read and understand the course expectations packet given to me by Ms. Conley

Name (print): _____ Grade: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parents/Guardians: My child and I have gone over the classroom expectations packet and understand the rules, regulations, and procedures that are to be followed. I also understand the grading policy and classroom routines. I understand these items and support them.

Name (print): _____ Name (print): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please fill out the following information below. Thank you.

Home phone: _____

Cell Phone (optional): _____

Email: _____

Videos: Throughout the year, students may learn through the use of a video related to the topic they are currently studying. If you do not wish for your child to watch selected educational videos (National Geographic, NOVA, Discovery, etc.....) which are Not Rated, G or PG rated they will be provided with assignments during these occasions and sent elsewhere.

Please check one:

() My son/daughter **may** watch selected videos.

() My son/daughter **may not** watch PG selected videos, but may watch Not Rated and G videos

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____