

Biology Syllabus

San Rafael High School Fall/Spring 2018/2019

Mr. Kent Morales

Room SC 101

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Bulldog Philosophy for Success

Be Creative. Be Curious. Take Risks. Embrace Failure. Enjoy Success. And... Listen

Course Description

Welcome to Biology, the study of the living world around you. The Biology course is a one-year project-based course that covers the major concepts in biology. The course is laboratory oriented and serves as a prerequisite for chemistry, physiology, physics, AP Environmental Science, and AP Biology.

Course Outline

- Matter and Energy in the Cell
- Matter and Energy in Ecosystems
- Human Impact on the Environment
- Evolution
- Genetics
- Biotechnology

Course Expectations

It is expected that all students will pass the course and enjoy the process. This can be accomplished by displaying Bulldog P.R.I.D.E.:

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

- Be on time with all of the materials you need. You will need a binder (or sufficient space in a large binder) with three separate sections and plenty of binder paper, and pencils for notes and other work. Colored pencils and a sharpener are available in class, but you will find it easier if you have your own.

RESPECT

- The classroom, the students, the school and the teacher.
- Come to class every day with an excellent attitude toward learning.

INTEGRITY

- Complete your own work. Plagiarism is the practice of copying words, sentences, images, or ideas for use in written or oral assessments with giving proper credit to the source. Cheating is defined as the giving or receiving of illegal help on anything that has been determined by the teacher to be an individual effort. Teacher will notify parent/guardian with assistant principal follow-up for discipline record. Students caught copying will receive a zero for the assignment or test. Allowing someone to copy your completed paper will result in a zero for you as well. Refer to Student Handbook for additional information/consequences.

NOTE: If you have someone else's paper (work) in your hand, at your desk, or a pic of it on a screen, you are cheating. If you give your paper (work) to someone else or take a pic of it to send to someone else, you are cheating. If you do these things there may be consequences.

DIVERSITY

- You will frequently work in groups. Contribute and learn from what others have to offer.

EXCELLENCE

- Work to your highest potential. Completing all of the assigned work on time to the best of your ability will ensure success in this class.

Evaluation and Grading Procedures

Grading for this class will be based upon the quality of your work. It will be composed of laboratory activities and laboratory reports, quizzes and tests, homework, projects, and performance tasks. Grades will be updated weekly when possible and placed on Aeries.

- **HOMEWORK:** Homework will be assigned almost every night.
- **MINORS:** I separate my classwork into majors and minors. Minors are smaller in-class assignments, activities, small projects, and some labs.
- **MAJORS:** These are the assignments that show me you understand what we have been learning about. They will include larger labs, tests, and most projects.
- **FINAL EXAM:** There will be a cumulative final exam at the end of each semester.

Letter grades will be given in the following manner:

- Minors or Homework/Classwork – 40%
- Majors – 40%
- Final Exam – 20%

Late Work Policy

- Late work will be accepted. It will be marked down 10% the first day it is late and 20% anytime thereafter.
- Late test or quiz policy. After an absence, you are required to take a quiz the day you return to class. The time to take quizzes is before school, break, lunch, tutorial, or after school. During class is not an alternative because then you miss more of class. If a long absence is necessary due to illness talk to me to arrange another schedule.
- ***What is late??*** Late means you did not turn in the assignment when it was due AND you were in class. If you have an excused absence **AND** you speak with me, I will tell you when you must turn in the work you missed. You need to make up work SOON after your absence.

Reassessment Practices – Growth Mindset Habits

Any large written assignment that receives a less than desirable grade may be revised and rescored, so long as it was initially submitted on time, a student-teacher conference has taken place, and the rewritten assignment is resubmitted in a timely fashion (no more than 5 class days after the assignment was returned to the student).

Safety

- Water only. No food in class, no food or drink in the lab area. This is a state law; food and liquids cannot be consumed in a laboratory.
- Follow laboratory safety guidelines.

Canvas

I use Canvas. On Canvas you will find electronic copies of the handouts (you should check this if you are absent). If you lose a handout go here and reprint it I only make enough copies to give you ONE. We will also do and submit work on Canvas.

I post grades on Aeries. These are your real time grades, not the progress reports and quarter grades. Every time I tell you that I have posted grades you should go and check that they are correct! I make mistakes... but I will not change them weeks or months later. This is also a good way to know whether you have any missing assignments. I update grades weekly, not daily

Communication

The quickest and most effective way to communicate with me is through **E-mail**. E-mail will always have a 48 hour turn around (unless I am on vacation or sick). We will use the **Remind** app for communication as well. Parents and students are highly encouraged to sign up for Remind notifications. You may also schedule an appointment with me. Please notify me a couple of days in advance so that schedules can be coordinated.

San Rafael High School Course Syllabus 2017-18 Biology

Dear Parent/Guardian:

To ensure that you are aware of the course rules and procedures, please read the course syllabus and discuss with your child. Once you have done so, please sign and return this form to Mr. Morales. If returned by Friday September 1, 2017, your student will receive homework points.

Please acknowledge that you have read the information explained above. It's okay to not understand some of it as we are happy to discuss further with you or your student.

Student Signature Print Clearly Name

Parent/Guardian Signature Print Name

Parent/Guardian Phone#/email Best Times To call/email