AP Biology Syllabus

Course Prerequisites: Successful completion of high school Biology and Chemistry

Course description: The AP Biology course is designed to be the equivalent of a two-semester college introductory biology course usually taken by science majors in their first year. This course includes the same topics covered in the textbook, the range and depth of topics covered, the type of laboratory work done by students, and the time effort required of students. Rather than learning from a micro level outward, students learn from a macro level inward. Students are also expected to learn not by memorization of facts, but through content and concept application via the AP Biology science practices. Inquiry laboratory experiences are a substantial component of this course requiring students to apply their content knowledge to novel scientific questions.

General Information:
Term and year: Term 1 and 2, Year 2014-2015
Instructor: Ms. Cordelia Nguyen
Telephone number and extension: TBA
E-mail address: cordie.nguyen@gmail.com

Textbook:
Pearson, Campbell and Reece, biology, AP ed. 8th

Materials:
You will need a three ring binder that will hold all of your notes and daily assignments. You are to keep all handouts and worksheets in this binder unless asked to do otherwise. You will also need to have a college-ruled notebook for all your lab write-ups. I expect you to bring collegiate lined paper, a pencil, and a blue or black pen everyday. It is your responsibility to look after your work. Binder/lab notebook check will be enforced frequently.

Classroom expectations:
Be Respectful
Be Positive
Be Punctual
Be Prepared
Be Proactive
Be Urgent

Behavior expectations:
The classroom is a place of respect, and I expect it to always be one. Students are expected to always follow classroom procedures. Cell phones are not allowed in class. In appropriate behavior will result in detention and continued behavior
problems will result in a phone call, teacher-parent conference, or being sent to the office.

**Grading Policy:**
In this class, you have total control over how well you do in this course. Students will be graded based on an understanding and application of the stated biology standards. It's definitely possible for everyone in this class to get an A. I don't grade on a curve. If you put in the best effort and turn in the high quality work needed to get an A, then you will get an A. However, getting a poor grade in this class is not acceptable.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>89 – 100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>79 – 88.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>69 – 78.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>59 – 68.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0 – 58.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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You will need to pass this class in order to graduate. It is my duty as your teacher to assist you in this learning journey. However, make no mistake that I will overlook any incompetency. In this class, you will get what you earn and not what I decide to give you.

**Grade Percentage Breakdown:**
- Assignments: 15% of total grade
- Lab Write-Ups and Binder Check: 15% of total grade
- Unit Exams and Weekly Quizzes: 50% of total grade
- End of the semester group presentation: 20% of total grade

**Late work policy:**
All assigned work must to be turn in on time with no exception. This policy is put in place to help you learn to appreciate deadlines and not to discourage you from learning. As an adult, you will be responsible for meeting many deadlines (mortgage payment, tax filling, etc) and failure to submit such important documents on time will put you in serious financial and legal troubles. A system that I found very helpful for me to organize everything is putting all deadlines down onto your personal calendar. I often check due dates at least 2 weeks ahead of time to have refresh my mind on important works. Desktop/laptop calendar can be an extremely helpful organizational tool.

**Make ups/Homework:**
Homework will be available in the classroom for students to pick up. I will not be reminding students to get their make up work! Students should expect to have some homework daily, whether it be reading, working on a project, or working on lab write-ups.

Students will have as many days as they were absent to get their work back to me, or it becomes late. This will only apply for excused absence.

**Attendance:**
When the bell rings, I expect everyone in his or her assigned seat working on the Warm Ups. Tardiness is not an excuse. If you are late to and/or miss a class, it will be your responsibility to come to my Office Hours and complete all your missed assignments. I will have folders with appropriate assignments for each class day. You are responsible for tracking down what assignment you are missing and turn in your make-up work at the end of the day. For an excused absence, I won't deduct points from your make-up work. However, for any an excused absence or tardy, points will be deducted according to the late work policy stated above.

Tardy Policy:
Since we will work bell to bell. I do expect students to be in their seats with all the materials by the time the tardy bell rings. Running through the door as it rings does result in a tardy! There will be a daily warm up which you will not get credit for if you are tardy. 5 tardies will result in a one hour detention, which will be served after school with me. Continued tardies will result in a referral.

Ms. Nguyen reserves all rights to change her policies and requirements based on necessary circumstantial needs.

Please Sign and return this portion to Ms. Nguyen by 09/04/2014

Parent's Name:__________________________________________

Parent’s Signature:________________________________________

Student’s Name:__________________________________________

Student’s Signature:________________________________________