JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL
COURSE SYLLABUS

Biology P QBS281-QBS282

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The Biology-P curriculum is designed with the understanding that each student needs experience with biology and how it applies to life. This course focuses on the application of biology to future decision-making, revealing its relevancy throughout life. Students delve into classical biological principles, which form a foundation for developing creative new ways of analyzing current biological topics.

The students will use a variety of approaches to solidify concepts being taught through the use of textbook, videos, computer-based models and labs, and hands-on activities. The students will be engaged in cooperative learning in doing lab investigations and unit projects. Throughout the course the students are expected to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills, confidence in designing lab experiments, writing lab reports, and oral presentations.

2. GENERAL INFORMATION:
Term and year: 2015-2016
Instructor: Mrs. Mitzie Romero (mitzie-romero@sac-city.k12.ca.us)
Telephone Number: 916-433-5200 x 1121 Room #: B21

3. TEXTBOOK:
Prentice Hall, Miller and Levine, Biology, ed. 4th

4. COURSE OBJECTIVES:
1. Knowledge of the scientific method as a critical approach to problem solving.
2. Developed laboratory skills through hands-on participation and varied laboratory experimentation.
3. Developed proficiency in completing lab write-ups, reports, research papers, and verbal communication.
4. A knowledge of the cell theory, and an understanding of the cell as the structural and functional unit of life.
5. A knowledge of the complementarity of structure and function.
6. An understanding of the genetic continuity of life and its basis in DNA.
7. An Understanding of mechanisms by which DNA controls the characteristics and life activities of organisms.
8. A knowledge of the history of living things including the changes that have taken place in organisms through time and the mechanisms by which these changes have occurred.
9. An awareness of the both the unity and diversity of organisms and the basis of these phenomena in the process of natural selection.
10. An understanding of the living world as an integrated, independent system which relies for its existence on a delicate balance among its living and non-living components.
11. A knowledge of the dependence of all life on autotrophs and an understanding of this dependence at the biochemical level.
12. An understanding of how humans influence and are influenced by the living world around them.
13. A knowledge of the biology of their own bodies which empowers them to make informed decisions regarding their personal health and well-being throughout life.
14. The knowledge and skills necessary to make enlightened decisions on questions relating to the living world.
15. The ability to recognize and appreciate the rapidly expanding technology and advances being made in biological research, and their implications (both positive and negative) for the living world in the future.

5. COURSE REQUIREMENTS, ATTENDANCE AND SPECIFIC GRADING POLICY

A. The following materials must be brought to class everyday:
   * Textbook (must be covered upon check out from the librarian)
   * Pens (black, blue), Pencils and erasers
   * Colored Pencils
   * Highlighters
   * 3-ring binder with Lined Binder Paper (must be neat and well-organized).
   * USB flash drive

B. EVALUATION and GRADING SYSTEM:
   Coursework will be graded as follows:

   | Coursework/Assignment | -20% | A= 90-100% |
   | Lab Activities/Unit Projects/ Research Work | -20% | B= 80-89% |
   | Homework/ Binder/ Participation | -20% | C= 70-79% |
   | Quizzes/Chapter Tests | -20% | D= 60-69% |
   | Finals | -20% | F= 59% and below |
   | Total | 100% |

C. ATTENDANCE POLICY: The JFK HS attendance policy as stated in the JFK HS student handbook will be followed.

5. ASSIGNMENTS:
   - Assignments must be done neatly (in black/blue pen or pencil) and turned in on time. All assignment will be graded and assigned points.
   - Use your binder for Daily Warm Ups/notes, assignments and homework.
   - Lab report following the format (to be given on the first lab activity) will be required for every investigation/lab activity.
   - Know due dates and submit coursework on time. **NO Late Work will be accepted.**
• When absent the previous day, pick up missed assignments from the assignment corner the day you report to class, or ask from your teacher before school starts or at the end of the day. (I may be busy preparing for a lab before class starts and may not be able to entertain your questions/request.) You will be given the number of days of excused absence plus one day to complete the missed work. However, make up can’t be done for most labs. If you missed one, ask from your teacher an alternate assignment.
• After school Lab Extension or make up will be provided when necessary.
• After school Help will be available from 3:15-5:00 pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursdays. Let your teacher know if you are coming and also inform your parents to arrange your ride home.

6. CLASSROOM RULES and EXPECTATIONS:

I. Rules:
Each student is expected to act and behave as a mature adult. The following classroom rules were made simple so it will be easy for each one of you to understand and to follow:

• Be Respectful.    * Be Safe.
• Be Responsible.    * Do your Best all the time.

II. Expectations:
• Pick up all assignments/lab handouts from the front counter as soon as you get inside the room. (Sharpen your pencil before class starts).
• Be in your seat when the tardy bell rings and start working on the warm up activity posted on the screen.
• Self control is essential in a good learning environment.
• Talking, wasting time, and other undisciplined behavior have no business in our classroom.
• Ask permission from your teacher before you leave your seat or the room.
• NO electronics policy will be observed in class, except when required for recording data during labs.
• Neatness is expected in all class work which must be properly labeled with first and last name, period and date.
• Food, drinks, gum/sunflower seeds and grooming will not be allowed in class.
• Respect for the teacher and your classmates, their property and school property is expected.
• School dress code will be observed. (No sunglasses and hats/headwear in class).
• Remain seated until dismissed by the teacher. (Throw trash/scrap on your way out at the end of the period).
• If you misbehave and disrupt the class, your work will not be given full credit.
III. Consequences:
- Warning
- Change Seat
- Lunch/after school detention
- Parent Contact
- Referral to the VP

IV. Discipline Policy:
- The student is responsible for his or her own behavior.

Note to all students and Parents: Please feel free to contact me via email and I will get back to you in a timely manner. My goal is to make sure that every student is successful in my class and I believe that active participation and communication are essential.

This is your 1st assignment for the term and is due on 9/8/2015.

I, __________________________ have read the syllabus and fully understand what is required of me to be successful in the Biology class.

I have read and talked about the Course Syllabus and understand what is required of my child in order for him/her to successfully complete this Biology course.

__________________________________________   _______________________
Parent Signature                              Date

Phone # ___________________________           Best Time to Call: _____________