Biology-P Syllabus

Units: 10 units

Course Description: Biology is a two-semester college preparatory laboratory-based course that satisfies high school graduation requirement and the University of California admission requirement for laboratory science. The course will prepare student to continue their education in biology, and also to be educated about the important biosocial issues throughout their lives. The course aligns with the Biology/Life Science content standards and the Science Framework for California Public Schools

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

Required text: Prentice Hall, Miller and Levine, Biology, ed. 4th

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.

Biology-P:
The Biology-P curriculum is implemented with the understanding that each student need 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 use a variety of approaches to solidify concepts being taught including cooperative group projects, model building, hands-on activities, and labs. Students delve into classical biological principles, which form a foundation for developing creative new ways of analyzing current biological topics.

The laboratory aspect of Biology-P encourages critical thinking. Coupled with varied learning opportunities, the laboratory experience allows students to develop skills to prepare them for success in the future whether students choose to enter college, trade school, or the work force.

Course Objectives:
A. Knowledge of the scientific method as a critical approach to problem solving.
B. Developed laboratory skills through hands-on participation and varied laboratory experimentation.
C. Developed proficiency in completing lab write-ups, reports, research papers, and verbal communication.
D. A knowledge of the cell theory, and an understanding of the cell as the structural and functional unit of life.
E. A knowledge of the complementarity of structure and function.
F. An understanding of the genetic continuity of life and its basis in DNA
G. An understanding of mechanisms by which DNA controls the characteristics and life activities of organisms.
H. 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.
I. An awareness of both the unity and diversity of organism and the basis of these phenomena in the process of natural selection.
J. An understanding of the living worlds as an integrated, independent system which relies for its existence on a delicate balance among its living and non-living components.
K. A knowledge of the dependence of all life on autotrophs and an understanding of this dependence at the biochemical level.
L. An understanding of how humans influence and are influenced by the living worlds around them.
M. 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.
N. The knowledge and skills necessary to make enlightened decisions on questions relating to the living world.
O. 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.

**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.

- A 89 – 100%
- B 79 – 88.9%
- C 69 – 78.9%
- D 59 – 68.9%
- F 0 – 58.9%

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: 30% of total grade
Lab Write-Ups and Binder Check: 10% of total grade
Unit Exams and Weekly Quizzes: 40% 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:_______________________________________________________*