

Biology

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Course Description:

In this course students will investigate biological processes through laboratory investigations, case studies, readings, writing, and projects. This class will investigate the nature of science through experimental design.

The following questions will be addressed in this course:

- How do matter and energy cycle and flow through living things and their environment?
- How do organisms transport matter and energy to maintain homeostasis?
- How do organisms receive and respond to stimuli?
- How do organisms maintain continuity of life?
- How has evolution led to the diversity of living things?
- How do living things interact with each other and their environment?
- How do human population growth and consumption lead to ecological imbalance?

Students who take this class will be prepared for the Pennsylvania Biology Keystone Exam.

Grading:

A weighted point scale will determine your grade.

You will earn your grade based on the following:

- Tests, Quizzes – 37.5%
- Laboratory Work, Papers, Projects – 37.5%
- Homework – 10%
- Midterm, Final Exam – 15%

Tests and Quizzes:

- They are composed of multiple-choice and essay questions.
- Questions can come from, but not limited to lecture notes, text readings, case studies, activities, and lab experiences.

Laboratory Work:

- There will be a laboratory experiment conducted weekly.
- Failure to comply with any of the lab rules may result in a score of zero on the lab, depending on the severity.
- If your behavior endangers another student, you will be removed from the lab indefinitely.

Papers and Projects:

- All papers and essays should be typed and formatted appropriately.
- All outside resources must be cited to avoid plagiarism. Any student caught of plagiarizing will receive a zero on the assignment and face disciplinary action.

Homework and Unexcused Late Work:

- When readings are assigned, it is expected that you will be prepared for a quiz the following day.
- If any assignment is one day to one week late, students will be held accountable for a 50% grade reduction in addition to any other deductions.
- If any assignment is one week late or beyond students will not receive any credit.

Things that you need to do in order to succeed in this course:

- Have fun and enjoy the learning experience.
- Connect what you learn to real life situations and build upon your prior knowledge.
- Express your thoughts and opinions throughout class discussions.
- Listen to others and treat everyone with respect.
- Ask questions and ask for help.
- Use the Webpage.
- Come to class prepared each and every day.
 - Binder/Folder
 - Pens/Pencils
 - Notebook
 - Homework

Textbook:

What is Life?: A Guide to Biology

- Jay Phelan



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