



UNION GROVE HIGH SCHOOL
Biology Course Syllabus

Instructor: Shelly Smith

Room #: 126

Year: 2022-2023

Course Name and Code: Biology

Textbook Used: Online EBook- Georgia Biology; Stephen Nowicki

Special Materials: 1 inch 3 Ring Binder, Notebook Paper, Composition Notebooks, Glue Stick, Scissors, Blue or Black Pens, and Pencils

Course Description: From the tiniest of molecules to the workings of massive ecosystems, biology is devoted to the study of living things and their processes. In this course, students will have the opportunity to develop scientific process skills, laboratory techniques, and an understanding of the fundamental principles of living organisms and their interactions with each other and the environment. Specifically, students will explore scientific thinking, the chemistry of life, cells, genetics, evolution, ecology, classification and diversity, plants, and animals.

Course Outline and Content:

This course will follow the content of the Georgia Standards of Excellence.

<https://www.georgiastandards.org/Georgia-Standards/Pages/Science-Biology.aspx>

Classroom Rules and Discipline Procedures: All students must adhere to the rules and expectations outlined in the Henry County Schools student handbook and the Union Grove High School student handbook addendum.

- Students should be in their seats and ready to learn when the bell rings with all materials for class that day. If a student is not inside the classroom when the bell rings, they will be considered tardy and will be asked to sign a Four Step. (See On Time Policy)
- Students will uphold Union Grove's expectations of academic honesty at all times. Violation of this policy will not be tolerated and will result in a grade of zero.
- Students will not be allowed to leave the classroom to go to their locker. Therefore, students should always come to class prepared (Chromebook, notebook, pen/pencil, colored pencils, assignments).
- Students will express opinions and ideas in a respectful fashion and respect the opinions of others.

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- Students will use standard safety practices for all classroom laboratory and field investigations. Safety in the lab is a must; the lab safety contract will be strictly enforced. (This is a hot button issue with me.)
- Misuse of laboratory equipment (glassware, sinks, safety showers, etc.) will not be tolerated. Any deliberate misuse of equipment will result in an office referral.

Consequences for choosing to jeopardize your success or the success of others:

Four-Step Discipline Policy:

1. Verbal warning
2. Contacting parents/guardians
3. Early morning, lunch, or afternoon detention
4. Referral to administrator

Hall Pass Policy: Students are required to utilize and wear around their neck the standard issued UGHS pass at all times while out of the classroom, failure to do so will result in disciplinary consequences. Students will be required to sign in and out in the classroom logbook. Teachers will not give out hall passes during the first ten minutes or last ten minutes of class. It is the teacher's discretion to allow or deny a hall pass request.

Chromebook Policy: It is an expectation for students to have their charged Chromebook with them every day. Failure to do so will be regarded as "not being prepared."

Cell Phone/Electronic Device Policy:

The cell phone/electronic device policy begins when students enter the designated classroom area. All students will place all cell phones/devices in the teacher assigned caddy. During this time, cell phones must be turned off. Additionally, all smart watches or other electronic devices connected to the phone must be caddied until the end of class. Cell phones/devices will remain caddied until the end of class. Students will NOT be allowed to take their phones/devices out of the room when they have a hall pass to the restroom, media center, etc. Students will be allowed to use cell phones/devices before first period, during lunch, and during class transition.

On Time Policy:

In order to be considered "on time" to class, the student must be across the threshold of the classroom or designated classroom area by the end of the tardy bell.

Grading System:

80% Course Work

40% for Practice Work (Labs and Quizzes)

40% for Assessments (Tests and Projects)

20% First Semester Final and Georgia Milestone Assessment

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*****Please use Infinite Campus to monitor student progress*****

Make-up Policy: It is essential that students attend class in order to be successful. **For excused absences, the student is responsible for getting the missed materials and assignments from the teacher the day that they return to class.** Unless otherwise informed, students are expected to return make-up work the day after they return to class (unless the student was out for multiple days). If a student is absent during a lab he or she must make special arrangements to come in before or after school to make it up or get an alternative assignment. If a student is absent on the date of a test or quiz, it will be expected to be done on the date of the student's return unless communication is made with the teacher.

Late Work Policy: Late assignments will be accepted at a reduction rate of 20% per day. After 5 days the student will receive a zero for their assignment. It is the students responsibility to submit the assignment directly to their teacher. There will be no additional opportunities during the semester to submit any late work.

Grade Improvement Opportunities:

Unit Repair Plan: In an effort to aid in student mastery, each UGHS student will have the opportunity to participate in Unit Repair. The number of unit repair opportunities may differ by content and is department specific. Biology students will have two opportunities per semester to improve a failing assessment grade (69 or below). This is specified by the UGHS Science Department. In order to receive this opportunity, the student must communicate with the teacher to receive instructions within two school days of receiving the graded assessment. Students will be required to complete test corrections, before/after school tutoring as defined by the teacher, and complete practice activities to show a greater understanding of the material to reassess. The student has 2 weeks, from the date the graded assessment is returned, to complete the test corrections and take the reassessment. Students will receive an average grade of the first and second attempts for the assessment. The average will only be taken if it is higher than the first attempt.

Tutoring: Please let me know as soon as you realize you need extra help. You will make an appointment with each teacher to come for extra help before or after school.

Exam Exemption: **The Biology Milestone Assessment is a requirement and does not qualify for exemption.** To encourage and reward excellent attendance, each student may earn the right to exempt one (1) spring semester non-state required final exam. Each student must meet clear guidelines to qualify for this exemption. Please see our school website for all requirements and guidelines.

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