Mrs. Mills- Syllabus for Biology: Fall 2026

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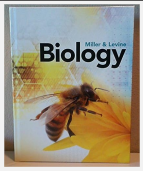
Office Hours	M	Tu	W	Th	F
Before School	By appointment	By appointment	By appointment	By appointment	8:00–8:35
After School	3:50-4:15	3:50-4:15	Unavailable	3:50-4:15	

Textbook



This course uses ***Miller & Lavine Biology*** **(Savvas, 2021)**. Students can access the digital version of this text online through Classlinks using Savvas EasyBridge. Select readings of this text are encouraged throughout the course. A class set of textbooks is also available in our classroom for use at school.

Supplies Needed

Pencils, erasers, at least two pens in different colors, and notebook paper are great to have for class.

Students should have a 3-ring binder (1 inch is fine) to keep hold of notes and handouts for this course. If not a three-ringed binder,you may have a spiral bound notebook or folder for class.

Students are encouraged to bring a personal calculator. Some spare units are available for classroom use if needed.

Course Objectives

- Use and apply the processes and skills of scientific inquiry and engineering practices.
- Show an understanding of the essential functions of life within cells and systems of cells.
- Show an understanding of energy capture and transfer from photosynthesis into ecosystems.
- Show an understanding of the mechanisms for gene transfer and trait inheritance between generations.
- Demonstrate an understanding of physical and biological components in complex ecosystems.
- Show an understanding of how natural selection affects change in organisms over time.

Schedule Prospectus

Weekly modules will address these topics in this order. Topical coverage does not always align neatly within a week-long module, but topics will generally span 10 to 15 school days. Summative tests will be given approximately every two weeks.Click here Standards

Introduction Week
Scientific methods, lab safety, lab equipment

Unit 1: Structures of Organisms
DNA, proteins, mitosis

Unit 2: Processes of Organisms
Photosynthesis, cellular respiration, macromolecules

Unit 3: Energy of Ecosystems
Carbon cycles, trophic levels

Unit 4: Dynamics of Ecosystems
Ecosystems, biodiversity

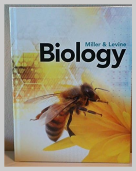
Unit 5: Inheritance of Traits
Population genetics, meiosis

Unit 6: Evolution: Unity & Diversity
Speciation, natural selection, genetic drift

EOC Review:

	Science and Engineering Principles, Cross-Cutting Concepts, Disciplinary Core Ideas

Class Apps



S*outh Carolina Biology Techbook* **(Miller and LevineSav vas)**.

(Google) Classroom
Your source for accessing handouts, lesson videos, lesson notes, virtual labs, and assignments:

PhET
Virtual labs and simulators for science.

Kami
Annotate PDFs for assignments and more!

Pear Deck
Interactive Lesson Slides for in-person
and online lessons.

Gizmos
Virtual labs and simulators for science.

Assignments and Scoring

Practice Work (Learning: Minor Grade)
Practice assignments are usually 10–20 questions and will include handouts or activities. You are expected to check your own work in class or by using a provided answer key. These are graded for completion.
Difficulty: Easy to moderate.

Checkpoints (Learning: Minor Grade)
These short assignments include LSH's (warm-up questions) and are assigned to assess your understanding of a topic. Checkpoints can/will include quizzes. Usually just 10-12 questions. Difficulty: Easy to moderate.

Projects (Mastering: Major Grade)
Meant to apply your skills to authentic, real-world problems. There are 2 or more projects each quarter. Difficulty: moderate to challenging.

Test (Mastering: Major Grade)
Intended to assess the student's knowledge of topics covered by the standards. The test will be announced at least one in advance. Tests include multiple choice, true/false, and short essay questions.

Labs (Refining: Minor Grade)
Labs include a wide range of experiences with real chemicals, physical manipulatives, and virtual simulations. Difficulty: easy, to moderate, to challenging.

Major Assessments	**60%**			**1st Quarter**	**40%**
		A	90+	**2nd Quarter**	**40%**
		B	80–89	**EOC (End-of-Course) Exam**	**20%**
Minor Assessments	**40%**	**C**	70–79		
		D	60–69	**Course Grade Calculation Formula:**	
		F	0–59	(Q1*0.40) + (Q2*0.40) + (Exam*0.20) = Total %	

CP Biology - An introductory lab-based course designed to provide students a detailed study of the major concepts of biology including, cell theory, heredity, ecology, and biological evolution. These concepts will be addressed in greater depth than Biology CP. Students develop critical thinking skills and science process skills through inquiry-based learning experiences in preparation for advanced science courses such as Advanced Placement and Dual enrolment. This honors-level course is for motivated students who need an in-depth and challenging program. This course provides numerous opportunities for students to develop science process skills, critical thinking, and an appreciation for the nature of science through inquiry-based learning experiences. Hands-on lab activities that address the high school inquiry standards are an integral part of this course.

General Expectations

Be Prompt: Time is precious.
Be in class and in your seat by the time the bell rings. As soon as the bell rings, the doors will be shut and locked.
If you are tardy, you must go to the attendance office for a tardy pass before being admitted to class.
Complete assignments by their turn-in date and time unless an extension has been granted by IEP/504 accommodation.

Be Prepared: Are you ready?
Check in to Google Classroom daily to stay up-to-date on assignments and schedules.
Follow a routine of focused study to review notes and complete assignments.
Maintain an organized 3-ring binder/folder with pockets/or spiral-bound notebook for notes, worksheets, handouts, and class documents.

Be Positive: Like cations! (More on that later…)
Approach this subject with the attitude that you can learn and conquer difficult things.
Demonstrate a spirit of cooperation with your teacher and classmates.

Be Productive: Bring your A-Game.
Be an engaged and helpful team member during activities and lab experiments or procedures.
Listen, question, and make notes during intervals of direct instruction from Mrs. Mills
Work until the bell rings, packing up no sooner than 2 minutes prior to the bell.

Be Polite: Please and thank you.
Lidded beverages (like coffee!) are permitted. Please do not eat during class unless permission has been given to do so.
Given that you are near lab chemicals, eating is not advisable.
Be considerate of others' personal space and possessions. Do not use crude, profane, or derogatory language.

Makeup and Late Work

Makeup Work: Work not completed or turned in due to a student's absence. *This policy is set by the district.*

- Students may be allowed to make up work due to absences that are excused, unexcused or related to discipline with no penalty within 5 days or a reasonable time according to GCSD board policy.
- If a student misses work due to an absence, it is the student's responsibility to coordinate time with the teacher within 5 days of return to make up the work. Any work not submitted within the 5 day makeup period will turn into "late work."
- Alternative assignments may be given for performance-based tasks that cannot be recreated in a make-up format.
- If a student is present on the day a test, quiz or project due date is announced and then absent on the day of the test, quiz, or project deadline, he/she must be make arrangements to take the test, the quiz, or to turn in the project when he/she returns to school.
- Field trips and participation in other extracurricular events (such as athletics) are considered attendance days. Work missed due to such events can be submitted electronically by midnight on the day that it is due. Items that cannot be submitted electronically should be submitted the following attendance day.
- Students are encouraged to utilize the before and after school tutoring programs to complete make-up and late work proactively.

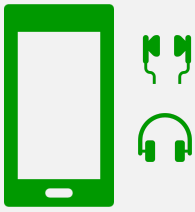
Late Work: Work not completed/turned in on time even though the student attended the class. *This policy is set by Eastside HS.*

- Late work is defined as work not completed/turned in on time even though the student attended the class.
- Any assignment which is not turned in on time will be deducted 10 points off the original grade earned for each school day the assignment is late, up to five days.
- After five days, the student will be assigned a 0 for the assignment.
- Late work will not be accepted after the end of a grading period.
- Students who have 504/IEP/ESOL accommodations specifically allowing for extra time may exceed the 5 day window to maintain compliance with their respective educational plan.
- Dual Credit courses may have varying late work policies that are aligned with their parent university.
- Students are encouraged to utilize the before and after-school tutoring programs to complete make-up and late work proactively.

Mrs. Mills reserves the right to alter this policy based on extenuating circumstances. Life happens!

The best thing you can do is to communicate with the teacher when life gets in the way of schoolwork.

Classroom Policies

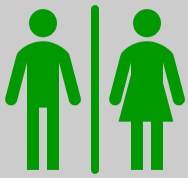


Phones and Audio Accessories: Acceptable Use.
Eastside High School is a Personalized Learning School with each student having access to a Chromebook to use for instructional purposes.
To increase student engagement and minimize distractions to the instructional environment, students are not allowed to use their electronic devices, which include, but are not limited to cell phones and earbuds, during any class.
Students may use their personal devices before school, after school, during lunch and class changes.
Failure to comply with this policy will be treated as a refusal to obey. A consequence matrix addressing infractions is included in the student handbook and located on the school's website.
Neither the school nor the district will be responsible for any lost, stolen, or damaged electronic device or cell phone brought onto school property.

Your Chromebook: With you. Charged. Every day.
This device is expected to be your primary tool for interacting with the class apps and web resources. As stated in the Eastside Chromebook Handbook, *"Students are required to bring their Chromebook to school every day, fully charged."* Repeated failure to bring your Chromebook to school and/or failure to bring it with adequate charge will be met with disciplinary action. *Just as teachers and administrators are required to properly charge and transport their laptops to complete their work, so must you.*

Cheating: Don't you dare!
Copying from the internet or copying the work of other students and then presenting it as your own is both destructive to your education and an insult to your teacher and classmates. If you are observed to be copying another student's work in this class, the copied work *will be confiscated* by Mrs. Mills, graded as a *zero*, and *reported to the Administration*, in addition to *parent contact*. If the copied work is for another class, your actions will be *reported to the appropriate teacher* in addition to *parent contact*.

Restroom Breaks: One at a time.
Requests to leave for a restroom break are nearly always granted. School policy is that restroom visits happen outside of class time such as before or after school, during lunch, or class changes.
School policy also requests that breaks not be taken in the first or final 10 minutes of any class period.
Students who make frequent breaks during non-ideal times may be confronted.



MagicSchool Syllabus Statement

This year, students will use MagicSchool AI, a generative AI platform designed specifically for education. As tools like ChatGPT and Gemini become standard in the professional world, utilizing MagicSchool prepares students for the future workforce by teaching safe and responsible technology use.

Students will use these tools for real-time feedback and dynamic problem-solving. To ensure appropriate use, teachers retain access to all student chats. MagicSchool strictly protects privacy and does not collect or utilize student data. All AI software, including MagicSchool, complies with GCS Board Policy and Administrative Rule IA.

Generative AI Syllabus Statement

This course may utilize generative AI tools, such as MagicSchool and Google Gemini, to supplement traditional instruction. Greenville County Schools prioritizes the ethical use of these technologies for brainstorming and self-guided learning.

- **Critical Thinking First:** AI must not replace original thought or coursework.
- **Academic Integrity:** Using AI to complete and submit assignments as original work constitutes plagiarism.
- **Required Citation:** If teacher-approved, all AI use must be properly cited.
- **Content Awareness:** Students must remain vigilant regarding potential biases and inaccuracies in AI-generated content.
- **Policy Compliance:** All AI programs align with GCS Board Policy and Administrative Rule IA.

Subject to be updated by the teacher through the semester at the teacher's discretion.