



**FIVE High School
Science
Biology I CP
2025-2026 Course Syllabus**

Teacher: Robert Ellington

Planning Period: 3A

Department Head: Robert Oliver

Charge Up Time: 11:35 - 12:00 T, R 12:00-12:30 W

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I. Course Catalog Description

This course prepares students for second-year biology courses and/or college biology. Topics covered include the central dogma, cell division, ecosystem dynamics, inheritance and variation of traits, biological evolution, biodiversity, and comprehensive health. Learning experiences are built around the three dimensions of science: Science and Engineering Practices, Crosscutting Concepts, and Disciplinary Core Ideas. Students are required to take the S.C. End-of-Course Test in Biology which counts 20 percent of the final course grade. Successful completion of Biology is required for a high school diploma. *This is a lab science course.*

II. Course Standards or Objectives

The following standards will be covered in this course:

- H.B.1 Science & Engineering Practices
- H.B.2 Cells
- H.B.3 Biochemistry
- H.B.4 Genetics
- H.B.5 Evolution
- H.B.6 Ecology

South Carolina State Standards for Biology I are available through the South Carolina State Department of Education: [Biology I South Carolina Standards & Indicators](#)

III. Instructional Goals

This course is designed for the college-bound student planning to go to a four-year college. The student is presented with opportunities to increase skills in laboratory technique, to learn information about Biology in the rapidly changing world, and to develop an understanding of the critical relationships between organisms and the environment. The state standards will be the foundation of this course.



IV. Course Sequence/Pacing Overview

The course sequence, following the district Biology I CP Pacing Guide, is listed below:

Quarter 1/3	Unit 1 Macromolecules Unit 2 Cell Structure and Function Unit 3 Mitosis Unit 4 Gene Expression and Mutations
Quarter 2/4	Unit 5 Meiosis Unit 6 Heredity Unit 7 Evolution Unit 8 Energy Unit 9 Ecology

V. Textbooks and Additional Resources

- A. Textbook: HMH Science Dimensions Biology (available through Ed Your Friend In Learning app on Classlink)
- B. Charged District-issued chromebook
- C. A 3-ring binder with filler paper
- D. Writing utensils
- E. Students will be able to access any other virtual resources through Google classroom.

VI. Course Grading Policies and Assessments

The student's quarterly grade will be determined through a point system. Assessments will be weighted according to their length and difficulty. The student's grade will be calculated by adding all earned points and dividing that sum by the total possible number of points. Such grades will translate to percentages by multiplying by 100. The midterm exam will account for 20% of the first semester grade. The final exam will account for 20% of the second semester grade. First and second semester grades are then averaged together to obtain the final course grade.

- A. Methods of Assessment: Students will be assessed by performance on the South Carolina state standards using quizzes, tests, laboratories and homework completion. Students will at times be assigned projects, which will be counted as lab assessments.. Students will work in small groups at times to aid each other in developing problem solving techniques. Students will work with assigned laboratory partners during laboratory exercises.



- B. Periodic and/or daily quizzes will be given to ascertain the students' understanding. A test will be given upon completion of each section of study. Unit tests will be given for all units of study. Missing assignments will be recorded as a 0 when grades are entered and changed accordingly upon student submission following the make-up and late work policies.

VII. Grading Procedures

Continuing in the 2025-26 school year, grades for minor assignments will be posted within 5 school days, and major or extended assignment grades will be posted within 10 school days.

- Major Grades (60%) - Assignments that students are given 2 or more classes (more than 48 hours) to produce or prepare. The following will be major grades in all content areas:
 - Test
 - Essay
 - Research paper
 - Speech/Presentation
 - Project
 - Cumulative Assignments
 - Summative Assignments
 - Lab Reports
- Minor Grades (40%) - Assignments that students are given 1 class (48 hours) to produce or on-the-spot work. The following will be minor assignments in all content areas:
 - Homework
 - Quiz
 - Vocabulary
 - Classwork
 - Formative Assessments
 - Journal Entries
 - Other department specific assignments
- Exams (20%)
 - Exams will be given towards the end of quarter 1 and quarter 2.
- There will be a minimum of 9 assignments per quarter.

VIII. Honor Code

In order to foster an environment of mutual trust and respect, we believe, within the community of School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties, each individual should accept the personal responsibility to exhibit and promote academic and social integrity. *Students will not cheat or plagiarize.*



School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties recognizes the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to enhance teaching and learning. We acknowledge the ever-changing nature of AI and understand the need to adapt to new developments. Our commitment is to ensure that any use of AI upholds a humanistic view of teaching as a priority, while implementing technologies in a manner that is equitable, ethical, and beneficial to all of our students and staff. Here is the [District AI Position Statement](#). The district also created [Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) Guidelines for Faculty and Students](#), as well as [Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) Guidelines for Parents and Guardians](#).

IX. Suggestions for Success in Course

A. Be Engaged In Class!

- a. Students should come prepared with questions and ready to participate in class discussions. Have your camera on, respond to prompts, and complete in-class assessments.

B. Complete Assignments On Time

- a. Completing assignments and turning them in on time is one of the most important things a student can do to ensure that they understand the material required for exams. Additionally, this gives ample opportunity to seek help for concepts that the student needs further assistance with.

C. Read

- a. By reading assigned texts (especially the text in guided notes, laboratory instructions, assigned readings, etc.), the information presented in class will be more easily understood. Reading a science textbook is not like reading a novel. Reading science texts requires a slower pace and attention to detail. Reading the text before the material is discussed allows the student to come prepared to class with questions.

D. Learn The Vocabulary

- a. Each unit has numerous vocabulary words that the student will need to learn in order to understand what the instructor is discussing and what questions on quizzes and tests are asking. Understanding the vocabulary is critical to success in Biology.

E. Review Each Night

- a. Don't wait until the night before to try to learn everything. Cramming for a Biology test will not be advantageous. It is suggested that students spend at least 20 minutes EACH NIGHT reviewing their Biology content.

F. ASK FOR HELP

- a. Come to Charge Up! on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays from 11:35 - 12:00 and Wednesdays from 12:05 - 12:30.



XI. Classroom Management Plan

- A. Students are expected to follow all rules and guidelines listed in the [Student Handbook](#) on the school's website.
- B. Students are expected to use school and personal technology responsibly and follow the rules included in the [25-26 District 5 District Issued Device Guide](#) and the [Acceptable Use Agreement](#). This includes:
 - a. Having a charged mobile device (district-issued Chromebook or comparable personal device) during school EVERYDAY.
 - b. Not using devices assigned to other students.
 - c. Being responsible for their own devices and should keep them secured on and off campus.
 - d. Following all teacher directions regarding appropriate times for use of device.

XII. Uniform Grading Scale

See [State Department of Education website](#) for complete details. All report cards and transcripts will use numerical grades.

A=90-100

B=80-89

C=70-79

D=60-69

F=Below 60

XIII. Student/Teacher and Parent/Teacher Communication

- A. All students should use district issued email accounts for communicating with teachers (studentnumber@stu.lexrich5.org).
- B. All students should check school email, Google Classroom and Google Calendar every school day.
- C. Parents and students should check the teachers' websites for classroom calendars/assignment sheets.
- D. Parents will receive an email from Google and then need to register to receive emails from Google Classroom. Once a parent is registered to receive emails from one class, he/she will receive emails from all Google Classroom groups. It is not necessary to contact all teachers to register.
- E. Emails and phone calls to teachers will be returned within 24 hours.
- F. Parents and students who would like access to the parent/student PowerSchool portals should visit their home school attendance office for login information.

XIV. Attendance and Make-up Work Policy



<u>Attendance Policy</u>	<u>Tardy Policy (per quarter)</u>
● Cameras must be turned on so your face is visible for the duration of the entire class. Students may be marked absent if their camera is not turned on with their face visible. ● Stay logged on to the class meet until you are dismissed by the teacher. It is important to respond to all messages and complete all tasks as instructed by the teacher. ● Not responding to or not engaging with activities during the class time may result in a virtual or in person conference with student, parent, teacher, and administration. ● Students who log in after instruction has begun will be marked tardy. It is imperative that students are present the entire duration of instruction. ● Not adhering to attendance policy can lead to discussion of returning to home school	● After 5th tardy = phone call home from attendance secretary ● Tardy 10 = virtual conference with parent, student, and admin ● Tardy 15 = in person MTSS meeting with parent, student, and administration ● Tardy 20 = meeting to discuss returning to home school

If you are experiencing technical difficulties, you must communicate with your teacher immediately. Your teacher will then provide you with information and/or assignments to be completed in order for you to be marked present during the time your computer was inoperable.

It is imperative that you maintain an open line of communication with your teacher in regards to your attendance. If for any reason you are unable to attend class, contact your teacher. Please provide any documentation to five@lexrich5.org.

Students are encouraged to attend school regularly. If a student must be absent from school for any reason, it is their responsibility to make up all missed assignments. Students who miss more than one-half of an instructional block will be marked absent for that block of instruction. Since it is in the student's best interest to make up all missed work as quickly as possible, the following guidelines have been established for make-up work:

- A student who does not submit assignments with established due dates because of absences, whether excused or unexcused, will be allowed to make up the work.
- Arrangements for completing missed assignments should be established once the student returns to school.
- Arrangements should include a schedule for the completion of the work.
- The student or parent/guardian must initiate contact with the teacher. The student will maintain responsibility for completing all work.



- Teachers may extend the deadline for submitting late assignments for students who miss multiple consecutive days of school. The teacher should communicate the deadline to the student and document the deadline. The teacher's deadline is final.

Credit for late work should be awarded according to the following guidelines:

- If a student was present in class on the due date, the assignment will be given less credit.
- If the student was not present on the due date because of an absence and the assignment is turned in within five (5) school days, the student will receive a maximum of 100% credit on the assignment.
 - Assignments turned in after five (5) school days may not receive full credit on the assignment.
- Late assignments will not be accepted for credit after the current quarter. For example, late assignments from the first quarter will not be accepted during the second, third, or fourth quarter.
- Students may receive a zero for work not submitted. The lowest grade for assignments will be determined at the teacher's discretion.
- Teachers will indicate the assignment is late and when it was submitted in PowerSchool.

XV. Content Recovery

The district's content recovery program consists of a course-specific, skill-based learning opportunity for students who are still enrolled in a course with the original teacher of record assigned by the school and who have not achieved mastery of course content that has already been addressed. Content recovery allows a student to retake a subset of a course, including a single unit, more than one unit, or other supplemental assignments/activities assigned and approved by a certified teacher as needed for the student to achieve mastery of the course content.

- In accordance with School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties [Board Policy IKADD-R](#), "Content recovery assignments must be completed no later than ten school days after the date they are assigned. Seniors must complete any content recovery assignments no later than the last day of senior exams. Upon satisfactory completion of all assigned work within the time allowed, the teacher will factor the content recovery grade in with the currently recorded grade for that subset of the course by averaging the student's initial grade for the nine weeks with the content recovery grade for that nine weeks."
 - Content Recovery should be ongoing and completed within the 9 weeks for which the material is covered.
- Content recovery may be offered at any time during the quarter
- Teachers may assign recovery through APEX using the or via teacher-directed assignment

XVI. Syllabus Acknowledgement and Information Form



Parents, please complete the following google form to indicate that you have read the syllabus and that you acknowledge the policies that have been explained to you.

[Mr. Ellington's Syllabus Acknowledgement Form](#)