

Syllabus for Biology 1-2
Science Department • La Jolla High School

Grade 9 or 10

[UC] [CSU]

Course Description

This biology course is composed of two semester classes. Instruction covers energy flow, populations, ecology, biochemistry, cellular biology, genetics, human reproduction, and evolution. The course combines curriculum requirements set by the California State Science Standards and additional topics. This course fulfills one year towards the science requirement for graduation. It also meets the UC A-G requirements. Upon successful completion of this course, students will have an understanding of the fundamentals of biological science as found in the natural world. The course will include labs, hands on experiences, lectures and discussions.

Course Objectives

- To develop an understanding and appreciation for the science of life.
- To develop laboratory skills through the use of laboratory equipment.
- To apply biological concepts during field labs.
- To become more organized, responsible, and excel in a rigorous environment.

Method of Instruction

Lectures: Students are expected to actively participate in group discussions and activities, which take place during lectures.

Laboratories: These are designed to supplement the lectures and homework. Generally, each chapter will have a minimum of two corresponding lab activities. **It is not possible to make up some labs.**

A calendar of lectures, homework assignments, and exam dates for each chapter will be available prior to the beginning of the chapter on the instructor's web page. Lectures are also posted on the instructor's web page. Audiovisual materials and guest speakers will be presented to emphasize certain subject matter.

Examination material will be taken from topics covered in lecture, as well as textbook chapters, laboratories, classroom activities, and homework. The recommended minimum study time for quizzes is 45 minutes and 60 minutes for a chapter test. The best way to prepare for exams is to stay current with new material. This means that the student reads the sections from the book, reviews their lecture notes, understand the lab materials, and comprehends homework answers. All of this should be done in advance of the night before the exam!

Student Support Plan

If you have any questions please feel free to email or call me. I am available for students before school, at lunch, and after school by appointment.

A. Before instruction

- * Unit calendar to include lectures, homework, laboratory activities, quizzes, and exam
- * Tutoring available before school by appointment
- * Students have access to classroom before school to work on homework
- * Ongoing instructor assessment and revision of all curricula

B. During instruction

- * Assessment of student understanding through regular quizzes, student responses during lecture discussions and individual questions, pre-lab assessment checks, and post-lab/activity discussions.
- * Use of technology for student presentations, data analysis, and lectures
- * Peer group activities and peer assessment

C. After assessments

- * Tutoring available after school
- * Regular parent contacts to encourage academic performance, punctuality, and attendance
- * Grades are posted in a timely fashion for student and parent information
- * Students will be recognized and rewarded for academic performance and attendance

Pacing Guide

Quarterly Schedule - See instructor's web page for unit calendar with all due dates.

<u>Quarter</u>	<u>Curriculum</u>	
1st	Chapter 1	The World of Life, and the Nature of Science
	Chapter 2	Populations
2nd	Chapter 4	Matter and Energy in the Web of Life
	Chapter 5	The Cell
3rd	Chapter 6	Continuity Through Reproduction; Human Reproduction
	Chapters 16 and 17	The Human Animal
4th	Chapter 8	Heredity and Genetic Variability
	Chapter 9	Evolution: Patterns and Diversity

Scholarship Grading Policy

Grades are calculated using a point system. An excessive lack of participation in class can affect grades. Students must accumulate the following percentage of points possible in order to earn a scholarship grade of:

<u>Grade Scale</u>	<u>Category</u>	
A	90 - 100%	Homework /Class Work /Participation 15%
B	80% - 89%	Labs and Laboratory Write-ups 35%
C	70% - 79%	Tests and Quizzes 35%
D	55% - 69%	Final Exam 10%
F	54% and below	Notebook 5%