Biology I: Course Syllabus 2019-2020

Note: After reading, Biology I students need to print, sign and return page 5 of this document for a grade.

Instructor: Lee Pearson        Email: lpearso@volusia.k12.fl.us        Room 15-105

Textbook(s): Biology by Miller and Levine, Pearson Publishers. An interactive workbook to accompany the text will also be supplied.

Course Description

The 9th grade course in Honors Biology is designed to help students understand the basic units in biology, including genetics, cellular structure and organization, DNA as the basic unit of heredity, taxonomic organization of life, interaction with the environment, six kingdoms, and evolution. Laboratory and fieldwork are used to introduce and develop these topics within a context of experiential learning.

Course Objectives:

The objectives of the course are aligned with the topics found in the Biology curriculum map for Volusia County schools. At the end of the course, students must take the End-of-Course exam which will be administered in May of 2019. This exam will count as 30% as the final grade for the course. The taking of this exam is a requirement for the state of Florida.

Material Covered: Material covered will follow the timeline provided in the Volusia County curriculum map as closely as possible. The approximate timeline is found later in this syllabus.

Student Requirements: A three (3) ring binder, paper, pencils and/or pens (blue or black ink). Paper and pencil must be brought to class every day.

Grading Procedures: The county grading scale will be used. Summative grades will count as 60% of the course grade, and formative grades will count as 40% of the course grade. There will be seven district assessments (DIA) during the school year, which are written at the county level. They will be counted as summative grades. They are designed to assess student knowledge for the EOC exam. Summative assessments may also include exams, quizzes, lab reports, projects, etc. Formative assessments include daily assignments, daily activities and labs, worksheets or notebook assignments. The EOC exam must be taken for graduation. Biology I class must be taken and passed for graduation.

Late Work: Work assigned must be turned in on time on the due date.

Make-up Policy: Make-up work will be given for absences, with one day to complete the work for each day missed. It is the sole responsibility of the student to get the assignment from the teacher and return the completed work within the time guideline. It is the responsibility of the student to check Focus for missed assignments if they were absent. Long standing due dates on assignments such as tests, projects, etc. are not included in this time frame due to the fact that these assignments are announced in advance. They are due on the day you return to school. This includes exams and exam dates that were made known days in advance.
**Testing Policy:** Test dates are given approximately one week in advance. If a student is absent the day before a scheduled test and returns on the test day, the student will take the test on that day, provided no new content has been presented. If a student misses the day of the test, the test must be made upon the student’s return. It is the student’s responsibility to arrange the time and day of the makeup test with the teacher. During each 9-week grading period, students will have the opportunity to retake one summative assessment.

**Tutoring:** I am available for additional help at lunch and after school, but must be given advance notice that this is needed. Before the EOC exam is given in May, tutoring sessions will be provided to cover material needed for the exam.

**Class Behavior and Expectations:** All students should be prepared to begin when class starts and should be seated before the tardy bell rings. The school’s tardy policy will be in effect in the classroom. Each student is expected to participate in all class activities to the best of his/her ability. Sleeping in class is not allowed. Each student is expected to act in a responsible manner in class and during laboratory activities, and to follow the rules of lab safety as covered in class. While performing labs and class work, each student is expected to pay attention and follow instructions; this is especially critical in lab. Disruptive behavior is distracting to the learning process for everyone and will not be tolerated, and may result in loss of lab privileges. No food or drinks are allowed in class or in the lab. Restroom passes are limited to three per student per nine weeks. Students will not be released to go to the restroom for the first 10 or the last 10 minutes of class.

**Electronic Devices:** The county electronic device policy will be in effect in class. All electronic devices must be powered off and out of sight at all times. This extends to headsets, phones, music of any kind, etc. These are not allowed during instructional time. The first infraction will result in a warning, and the second will result in a referral with parent contact. Upon a second warning, the student will be asked to sign a sheet for documentation. If a student is caught using their phone or having their phone out during an exam, a grade of zero will be given for that exam and the test cannot be made up.

**Field Trips:** The honors biology course is part of the IBIS program for Volusia County; regular biology classes are not. This program includes field trip for each class to Rose Bay Marine Sanctuary, located on US 1 in New Smyrna Beach. Transportation will be provided for the students, and the field trips will be at no cost. If a student is not able to attend, an alternate assignment must be done in place of the field trip grade. Parents will be asked to chaperone the field trips if at all possible. The field trip will be held in January and counts as one summative grade.

**Notebook:** A three-ring notebook and two spiral notebooks are required for this class. These should include all of the paperwork that is used in this class. This includes handouts, class notes, quizzes, tests, homework, and project work. Notebooks may be collected and graded periodically for completeness & organization. The notebook should be brought to class on a daily basis.

Academic Dishonesty: It is the expectation of all students that any work handed in is completely the work of the student. If outside sources are used, they should be properly cited. If cheating occurs during an exam, a grade of “0%” will be given for that exam and that exam cannot be retaken. In cases of plagiarism, a zero will be given for that grade. If an electronic device, such as a phone is used, is visible,
or the student has access in any way to a phone during the exam, a grade of 0% will be given for that exam and that grade cannot be made up.

Course Material Covered for EOC:

Introduction to Biology
Science Process
Water Properties
Macromolecules
Enzymes
Cell Theory
Microscope Types
Cell Structure/Function
Membrane Transport
Photosynthesis
Cellular Respiration
Cell Cycles
Mitosis/Meiosis
Genetics
Biotechnology
DNA Structure
Protein Synthesis
Evolution Evidence
Mechanisms of Change
Taxonomy
Human Health,
Growth and Development
Plants
Matter and Energy in Ecosystems
Interdependence

Human Impact

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Review for EOC

End of Course Exam
Please sign and return:

Pearson’s Syllabus for Biology I Class

I, ____________________________, have read and understand all student requirements for Biology I class. I understand that this class will have an End of Course exam that is required by the state of Florida, and that it will count as 30% of the final grade for the course.

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Student Name Printed

______________________________
Parent Signature/Date

______________________________
Student Signature / Date

______________________________
Parent Email Address
Biology II / AP Biology Course Syllabus 2019-2020

Note: After reading, biology II/AP students need to print, sign and return page 9 of this document.

Instructor: Lee Pearson  Email: lvpearso@volusia.k12.fl.us


Course Description: This course is designed to prepare the student or gain credit for a college biology course. The content includes molecular and cellular biology, organismal, and population biology. The Biology II course will be double blocked for two periods with Biology II being taught in the fall, and AP being taught in the spring semester.

AP Biology is very rigorous, as it is equivalent to a two-semester college biology course. AP biology is different from a traditional high school biology course due to the content and depth of material covered. The students who have performed the most successfully on the AP exam are those students who are willing to work steadily throughout the two courses and who are willing to work independently.

The Biology II course will follow the Volusia County Curriculum Map as closely as possible. At the end of the Biology II course, the EOC exam will be offered.

The AP biology exam will be administered in May. Review sessions will be held in the weeks prior to the exam, including one Saturday review. Attendance at the review sessions is required. The AP exam can possibly grant the student college credit for biology if the score is 3-5 on the exam, depending upon the institution. Failing scores are 1-2 on the exam. This course in conjunction with the AP program includes an extensive laboratory component, so reading and independent study will be expected. Those students enrolled in AP biology are required to take the exam in May 2020. If a student fails to show up for the exam, the student must reimburse the school for the exam fee.

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Student Requirements: A three (3) ring binder, paper, ruler, pencils, and pens (blue or black ink).

Grading Procedures: The county grading scale will be used. Summative assessments will count as 60% of the course grade, and formative assessments will count as 40% of the course grade. Summative assessments include exams, quizzes, lab reports, projects. Formative assessments include daily assignments, daily activities and labs, worksheets or notebook assignments.

Assessments: The terms and objectives for each unit or chapter are given prior to covering the material and are given as homework assignments. Students are responsible for knowing the material given on the objective sheets and the associated terms. After the material is covered during lectures and lab time, exams are given at the end of units or chapters on the material. Unit exams, which will usually cover a single topic, will be given at the end of each section covered in class. The exams will mimic the exams given by the AP program, and may include material from previous tests in order to encourage you to
continuously review previously learned topics. In addition, pop quizzes may be given during each unit. The county grading scale will be used, as in 90% - 100% = A, etc.

**Make Up Policy:** Make-up work will be given for absences, and depending on the number of days missed, the student has one day to make up the work for each day that the student was out of school. It is the sole responsibility of the student to get the assignment from the teacher and return the completed work. Assignment or projects that are long-standing when the due date was given days or weeks in advance are not included in this time frame, and are due upon the return to school.

**Testing:** Test dates are given approximately one week in advance. If a student is absent the day before a scheduled test and returns on the test day, the student will take the test on that day, provided no new content has been presented. If a student misses the day of the test, the test must be made upon the student’s return. It is the student’s responsibility to arrange the time and day of the makeup test with the teacher. During each 9-week grading period, students will have the opportunity to retake one summative assessment after remediation is done for that grade.

**Tutoring:** Tutoring will be available for additional help on Wednesdays after school. In the weeks prior to the AP exam, tutoring and review sessions will be offered and attendance will be required.

**Class Expectations:** All students should be prepared to begin when class starts and should be seated before the tardy bell rings. Each student is expected to participate in all class activities to the best of his/her ability. Excessive absences in the class will not be tolerated. Attendance is mandatory. Each student is expected to act in a responsible manner in class and during laboratory activities. While performing labs and class work, each student is expected to pay attention and follow instructions; this is especially critical in lab. Disruptive behavior is distracting to the learning process for everyone and will not be tolerated, and may result in loss of lab privileges. No food or drinks are allowed in class or in the lab. Bathroom passes will be limited to three per student per nine weeks. Students will not be allowed to use the restroom in the first or last 10 minutes of the class. If a substitute teacher is in the room in Mrs. Pearson’s absence, appropriate class behavior is still expected during that time. Students are expected to be on time for class and if given a break between periods 6 and 7, are expected to return to class before the tardy bell. If students go off campus for lunch on early release days, they are expected to be in class on time when class begins.

**Lab Work:** On the average, 1-2 classes per week are used to conduct lab investigations. The lab investigations consist of a combination of the AP Labs and teacher-written labs that are designed to coincide with and enrich the lecture material. These labs include fresh and preserved specimens, dissections, microscopic specimens, etc. Students are responsible for all material covered in the lab investigations. Labs are usually conducted weekly, and sometimes more frequently, depending upon the topic being covered. Some of the labs will be inquiry-based labs, in which the students design, implement, record, analyze, and evaluate their own work in order to determine the validity of the hypothesis. These labs will be a combination of those labs required by the AP program, plus labs done in order to enhance the material covered in class. If a student misses class on a lab day, there will be no lab make-ups. An alternate assignment comparable in length will be assigned.

**Electronic Devices:** District policy states that all electronic devices such as telephones, Ipods, headsets or music of any kind are to be turned off and out of sight during class time. You may not have them out in
class for any reason. If a phone or electronic device is out during an exam, is visible, or in the lab or on the desk of a student, the student will receive a grade of zero for that exam and that grade cannot be made up. The county electronic device policy will be in effect in class, which states that all electronic devices must be powered off and out of sight at all times. The first infraction will result in a warning, and the second will result in a referral with parent contact.

**Field Trips:** The AP biology course is part of the IBIS program for Volusia County. The AP program includes two field trips, one to Lyonia Preserve and one to Rose Bay Marine Sanctuary, located on US 1 in New Smyrna Beach. Transportation will be provided for the students, and the field trips will be at no cost. Attendance at the field trips is required and are part of the program. If a student does not participate, an assignment of equal time and length will be given.

**Notebook:** A notebook should include all of the paperwork that is used in this class. This includes handouts, class notes, quizzes, tests, homework, and project work. Notebooks may be collected and graded periodically for completeness & organization.

**Academic Dishonesty:** It is the expectation of all students that any work handed in is completely the work of the student. If plagiarism is suspected, such as in the case of a homework assignment or project, a zero will be given for that assignment and the guidance office will be notified. In cases of cheating on an exam, a grade of “0%” will be given for that exam and that exam cannot be retaken.
Please sign and return:

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