

# COURSE DESCRIPTION FOR BIOLOGY 1

Appropriate completion of one year of biology is required by all students to graduate. By state law, this year's ninth graders must pass a district assessment in order to graduate. The assessment is based upon the new state standards.

The general goals Mrs. Wilkening has for students in this course are as follows:

1. to acquire a maximum knowledge of biology. This will include units in cellular studies, genetics, evolution, anatomy and physiology of plants and animals, and ecology.
2. to acquire or reinforce an appreciation for living organisms, through this knowledge.
3. to utilize and reinforce previously acquired skills in the following:
  - a. scientific method and inquiry
  - b. data gathering and reporting (including graphing)
  - c. metric system
  - d. writing of lab reports
  - e. working with others and as part of a group
  - f. reading and note taking (This will include work with different reading strategies, through the reading apprenticeship program. These strategies will be taught and reinforced in both English and biology classes)
  - g. study skills
4. to reinforce acquired knowledge with laboratory work and inquiry.
5. to acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to be certified in biology in order to graduate.

## GENERAL INFORMATION:

As a member of this class, there are basic requirements which must be met, by students, to help insure success. These include.....

- 1.) be in class on time DAILY (this would include being ready to start, at the beginning of the class period )
- 2.) be prepared with materials, in class, DAILY (this includes pencil/pen, paper, composition book, notebook, and textbook).
- 3.) participate in class work DAILY (this includes listening, note taking, participating in group work, contributing to class discussions, doing lab work and/or written work).
- 4.) to complete written work, both in-class and homework, ON TIME.
- 5.) cooperate with all other members of the class.

## GRADES:

There are three components to your grade:

- 1.)TESTS and QUIZZES    2.)LABS    3.)ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments and labs will have a certain point value (depending on the length of the assignment/ lab). These points are totaled along with test and quiz points. Grades are determined by a straight grading scale, of the percentage of your total points (number of points earned divided by total possible points, multiplied by 100). Although the components of the grade are not weighted, tests and quizzes usually comprise about 40-50% of the grade.

### GRADING SCALE:

|          |        |          |           |
|----------|--------|----------|-----------|
| A+ ..... | 100%+  |          |           |
| A .....  | 99%-93 | B- ..... | 82-80     |
| A- ..... | 92-90  | C+ ..... | 79-77     |
| B+ ..... | 89-87  | C .....  | 76-73     |
| B .....  | 86-83  | C- ..... | 72-70     |
|          |        | D+ ..... | 69-67     |
|          |        | D .....  | 66-63     |
|          |        | D- ..... | 62-60     |
|          |        | E .....  | below 60% |

It is the students' responsibility to keep track of their grade. Averaged grades and missing assignments will be posted regularly, in the classroom, by student number. **Grades will also be updated regularly on the internet using the district Power Teacher password... More info to follow...**

**NOTE:** A list of missing assignments will be regularly updated on the internet along with grade updates.

## **CLASS ACTIVITIES**

Class activities and due dates are always listed on the front, right hand white board. It is **your** responsibility to check the board **DAILY** and write down your assignments. Work should be turned in on time. Late work will be accepted for greatly reduced points. Thus, it is to your advantage to turn work in on time, to earn the maximum possible points for your effort. In general, your activities and assignments will be as follows.

**LECTURE/GROUP WORK:** Material from your reading will be covered in class with lecture and/or group work. It is expected that you will read and study in your book **BEFORE** the material is covered in class. This will make it easier for you to follow lecture, take notes, and ask questions. We will be working on various reading strategies through the year to help make the reading most useful to all students.

**LABS:** Lab days will be listed on your assignment board. You will need to prepare for the lab work by carefully reading directions and listening to any special directions given by the teacher. Labs are typically done in pairs or groups of 3-5. Lab write ups are expected to be turned in on time. Lab work is done to reinforce concepts from reading and lecture. Lab procedures, write ups and safety will be discussed in detail in the near future. Labs will occur with each unit.

**TEST AND QUIZZES:** Test dates will always be announced well in advance, on your assignment board. Quizzes may or may not be announced. Tests can be expected after each one to two chapters and are usually worth 80-200 points each. Quizzes will occur periodically and are usually worth 10-50 points.

**ASSIGNMENTS:** Class work or homework may include (for instance) notes on reading or lecture, answered questions, or concept maps. Each of these assignments will be worth relatively small number of points (5-20), however, there are more of these types of assignments. Thus, assignment points can comprise approximately 30% of your grade. So, it is to your advantage to get **ALL** assignments in, on time (so that no credit is lost).

**PROJECTS:** Certain units will lend themselves to projects. These may include book research and/or science inquiry. More details on these when the circumstances arise.

**EXTRA CREDIT:** Periodically, there may be an extra credit question on a test or lab. Otherwise, extra credit is **NOT** assigned nor accepted. In other words, every assignment, lab and test which you do, will count. Another reason to keep up with your work and to do your best **REGULARLY**.

## **MAKE-UP /LATE WORK**

- Work that is not turned in on time (other than for an excused absence) will be accepted for late credit. The late assignment will be lowered to 50% the points earned.
- Late work due to **UNEXCUSED** absences earns **NO CREDIT**.
- Late work due to excused absences, are excused for as many days that you are absent plus one day (i.e.: absent 3 days you have 4 days to makeup the work). After that time it will be graded for late credit.
- **If you are absent on the day of a test and were not absent for other work leading to the test, you are expected to take the test on the day of your return.**
- It is your responsibility to obtain your makeup work when you are absent. A file containing handouts is located on the back counter. It is also good to have a study buddy in class that you can call.

## **NEEDED MATERIALS**

**\*\*1.** You are required to keep a **SEPARATE, ORGANIZED, loose leaf binder**, for all of your biology work. **KEEP ALL** papers in order, with dividers. The easiest time to do this is when papers are passed back. Binders will be periodically checked. The more organized you are in keeping your work together, the easier it will be to

have study materials available for tests and final exams. This is especially important for final exams, as additional review material will not be provided.

Your binder should be divided into the following sections: introduction; present packet; labs/activities; past packets; tests & quizzes.

2. A theme book ( composition book, **not** spiral bound) will be required for daily questions and journaling. More info on this later.

3. Although scissors, rulers and colored pencils are provided in class, they must be shared. Thus, you may want to have your own.

4. Obviously, paper and pencil/pen are also required.

\*\*If you have any problems obtaining supplies please let the teacher know.

**ALL STUDENTS SHOULD HAVE ALL MATERIALS IN CLASS,**  
**NO LATER THAN MONDAY 9/10/07**

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

1.) You will be expected to sit in assigned seats. These seats will be periodically changed. You will also be expected to work in lab and class activities in groups. These groups will periodically change.

2.) It is important to get along with other members of the class (both students and teacher). You will be considerate of other peoples property and concerns. Abusive language and actions will **NOT BE TOLERATED**.

3.) You are to respect the classroom. Chairs and **NOT** desks are for sitting on. **DO NOT WRITE ON THE DESKS**. Students that write on the desks will be washing **ALL** the desks in the room.

4.) Eating is **NOT** allowed in the classroom (This is an important lab safety issue as well as important to keep the room clean and free of undesired organisms, such as roaches, ants, and fungi.)

5.) You are expected to use lab equipment with respect and common care.

6.) Be sure to take care of all your concerns (bathroom, locker, drink, etc., etc.) **BEFORE** coming to class. You are expected to be in class for the full 55 minutes. If you must leave class, you have 3 hall passes per quarter. Beyond those 3 hall passes, leaving the room counts as a detention. If you have a bladder problem a note should be brought from home.

7.) Huron's tardy policy will be strictly enforced.

8. Electronics are not allowed during class time. Make sure your phones are turned off and along with music or game "players" should be put away and out of sight during class.

9.) The computer and the inside of the teacher's desk are off limits unless otherwise instructed

10.) You are dismissed **BY THE TEACHER**, not the clock. You should remain in your seats, until you are dismissed. **DO NOT** "pile" up by the door.

11.) Your grades will be posted on the web page, plan to visit the site weekly at: <http://www.mygradebook.com> (watch for upper case letters). Labs, vocabulary and review games will also be available on-line through [eduweblabs.com](http://eduweblabs.com). More info on this soon.

12.) **SAVE** this course description for the entire year, as it will come in handy for reference and will be a part of notebook checks.

*Some advice*

1. **DO NOT GET BEHIND**. We cover much material and most of our material is cumulative and depends on material covered earlier. If you get too far behind you may not be able to catch up. Keep up with your work and do not put things off.

2. **BUDGET YOUR TIME**. Obviously biology is not the only class you have and you must learn to budget your time among all your responsibilities (including athletics, jobs and friends).

3. **READ BEFORE WE GO OVER MATERIAL IN CLASS.**

- This will make your class time more meaningful.
- Be sure to pay close attention to the scientific vocabulary.
- Read all subtitles to help determine the main ideas and principles presented in the reading. Also use them in your daily review to ask yourself questions.
- Pay attention to charts, tables, and diagrams used as illustrations in the readings.
- Remember that studying science is not like reading fiction or even history or mathematics.

4. **REVIEW DAILY.** Each day review what we covered in class that day. You should not be cramming for tests, the night before. Reviewing daily will also clue you in on things that you are not understanding. If this occurs in a timely fashion, there is still time to get help.

5. **ASK FOR HELP WHEN YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.** You can ask before class, after class, and after school, as well as during class (at appropriate times). Don't struggle alone, always ask for help when you are not understanding material, or unable to do the work. Students having continued difficulties will be assigned to a support (PASS) class for daily extra help.

6. **WORK FOR UNDERSTANDING:**

- Study by doing versus just reading. (Ask yourself questions and be sure to be able to answer them.)
- Use class notes as a guide and add to them or correct them from your book.
- Try to understand key concepts and work through all the questions at the end of the chapter.
- Understand why the correct answers are correct and the wrong answers are wrong.
- Be inquiring. Ask for the reasons behind the principles and concepts.
- Be able to explain each topic in your own words.

7. **TEACH OTHERS:** Study in groups with 2 or more classmates, taking turns explaining terms, concepts, themes, etc. to each other.

8. **STAY ORGANIZED.** Keep your binder organized with assignments kept in order for test studying. Especially for your final exam.

9. **ATTENDANCE IS VERY IMPORTANT.** Each day you are absent, it is 55 minutes of missed learning. It is 55 minutes that you are behind. When you must be absent, be sure that it is called in to the grade office within 48 hours, to be excused by a parent or guardian.

10. **IF YOU CARE, IF YOU TRY, YOU WILL SUCCEED!!**

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**PARENT AND STUDENT:** Please sign, date and return this section by this **Friday, Sept. 5th**. Your signature indicates that you have read this course description. Student please also print name.

PARENT SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_