

GT Pre-AP Biology Syllabus 2017-2018

Dripping Springs High School

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Room D 105

Course Description:

-Biology is the study of all living things. It is a lab-oriented course which emphasizes structure and function, growth and development, cells, tissues and organs, nucleic acids and genetics, biological evolution, taxonomy, and the relationships between living things and the environment. While acquiring knowledge of these fascinating topics, you will develop critical thinking skills, practice collaboration, re-learn how to inquire and problem-solve, and hone your skills of written and verbal communication. The course is rigorous and challenging and will require thoughtful energy.

Course Information:

1. Grading criteria

six-weeks grading period average for all classes of course title is based upon:

- 70% Summative Grades per six-weeks.

These are assessments designed to provide information to be used in making judgment about a students' mastery of the curriculum and critical thinking skills at the end of a sequence of instruction; e.g. major labs, unit exams, midterm and final exams, projects, long-term assignments, etc. Information will be provided via the instructor and will be posted on teacher websites.

- 30% Formative Grades per six weeks.

Daily grades may include textbook assignments, worksheets, vocabulary exercises, laboratory investigations, quizzes, class activities, notebook checks, article summaries, small projects, etc. These are assessments designed to provide direction for both student and teacher while a student is still learning the material. Review sheets, rubrics, and other tools will be disseminated in class and on my website. It is to the advantage of the student to utilize these resources.

-In a science class at Dripping Springs HS, you will spend a significant amount of time in either an investigatory or exemplary **LAB** setting. Therefore, quizzes and exams will contain material covered in lab. A successful student will pay close attention, ask questions, and seek understanding during each lab and contribute to your group's success. Major labs will be written following a specific format.

- Midterm/ Final Exams

These comprehensive assessments account for 20% of the student's semester average. Given the volume of information pertaining to these high stakes exams, preparation is paramount. There will be review sheets and review sessions, but my advice is to pay close attention and STUDY throughout the year.

- STAAR/ EOC

Every biology student will take an End of Course Exam in May, also known as the STAAR. The scores will in no way impact the final grade in this course. We will prepare for the STAAR during the course of the year by completing review sheets, quizzes, assignments, labs, and projects. Additional resources can be located on my website.

2. Tutorials

-ALL students are encouraged to attend tutorials! Tutorials will be offered in my classroom **D 105** before school Monday through Friday during "zero hour" (**8:20-8:50am**).

3. Makeup Work Procedure

-It is the student's responsibility to make up class work missed due to an absence. Please refer to your planner and/or my DSHS website for assignment calendars and instructional materials. In an effort to respect the time of students, teachers, and extracurricular coaches and sponsors while maintaining the Dripping Springs High School level of rigor and pacing, I require that make-up work be promptly completed and turned in and that *missed test/ quizzes be completed outside of class time*.

-If possible, let your teacher know about planned absences ahead of time to receive any work you will miss.

-The student will have as many days to make up the work as the number of days you were absent as per the Student Handbook Policy.

-Absence on the day before a test will not exempt the student from taking the test on the regularly scheduled test date.

- Make-up tests may be different from the originally scheduled test format, and will be scheduled for a tutorial period. The students should not expect to make up missed tests/ quizzes/ labs during class.

-IF YOU ARE ABSENT, CHECK MY WEBSITE! It will save you time and effort! ☺

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4. Late Work Procedure for Projects and Daily/ Homework Assignments

All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the assigned due date.

Students who fail to complete the assignment on time must still complete the assignment, but for a maximum grade of 70. The deadline for late work is 9am the school day following the original due date. Students who fail to meet the deadline shall receive a zero for the assignment. No late work will be accepted for a grade after the deadline without prior approval from the teacher.

5. Extra-Credit

I do NOT offer any extra credit opportunities.

6. Academic Dishonesty/ Cheating/ Plagiarism

Students found to have engaged in academic dishonesty shall be subject to disciplinary penalties and grade penalties on assignments, projects or tests. Academic dishonesty includes cheating or copying the work of another student, plagiarism, and unauthorized communication between students during an examination. The determination that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty shall be based on the judgment of the classroom teacher or other supervising professional employee, taking into consideration written materials, observation, or information from students.

7. Supplies

-Each student will need a

- **3 ring binder with pocketed folders.**
- **a daily planner to keep record of your assignments**

-Each day, students will also need:

- **100 sheet composition notebook:** this is where you will record warm ups, notes, brainstorming, discussion notes, and informal labs.
- **red pen, blue or black inked pen, and pencil.**

8. Website

- Any and all important information regarding my PreAP Biology classes will be posted on the Google Classroom.

-The following information will be available: general course information, weekly and daily agenda, PowerPoint presentations, homework assignments, review sheets, online textbook, major lab/ project information, and teacher contact information.

This site is maintained for your benefit, so please check it often and especially if absent!

General Advice

- READ the assigned sections in the text book as they are assigned. It is not a suggestion, it is an imperative.

- Check out a text book; electronic access available for all students, but retention increases when reading a hard copy.

- If you will look over your notes/work for 10 minutes each night, you will not have to "cram" the night before and your test scores will improve.

- ASK Questions. You're not the only one with the question.

The course work will require 1-2 hours a week outside of class. An agenda will be posted on the website for each unit. To be successful, you need to commit to completing assignments, studying for tests, and attending tutorials when struggling. Remember: I am here to help YOU LEARN! ☺

