



Accelerated Biology

2016-2017



Mrs. Stolfus

SHS Science Department

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Course Overview:

This advanced lab-based science course is designed to familiarize students with the fundamental principles of biology while building skill in critical thinking, science practices, and engineering design. Students will investigate primarily cell biology and genetics the first semester and evolution and ecology during the second semester. The overall goal of this course is to help students develop a deeper understanding of the unifying principles governing life and enhance their student problem solving and analytical skills. Students will have the option of pursuing approximately 10 college credits during this course through Willamette Promise.

Textbook: Modern Biology: Glencoe Science

Overview of Units:

Fall Semester

- The Nature of Science and Intro to Biology
- Cell Theory and Membrane Structure
- Biomolecules and Cell Transport
- Enzymes and Bioenergetics
- DNA and gene expression

Spring Semester

- Cell Division and Heredity
- Biotechnology and Bioethics
- Evolution
- Taxonomy
- Ecology and Human Impacts
- Ecology Project
- Microbiology (time permitting)

Grading Policy:

- This class has clear learning expectations and all assignments, tests, and labs, address NGSS performance expectations for high school students as well as Willamette Promise content standards.
- Your grades will be weighted as follows:

Academic

- Tests = 50%
- Labs = 25%
- Final = 10%

- The Grading Scale is as follows:

90-100% = A
80-89% = B
70-79% = C

Personal Management

- Home-Daily Work/ Notebooks = 15%

60-69% = D

0 -59% = F

Expectations:

- Attendance –Biology is an activity-oriented course! Labs and classroom experiences are hard to replicate if you miss class and your lab partners count on your being there to help them. Good

attendance is crucial to your success in this course! Maintaining an excellent attendance rate is expected. Absences beyond this limit may result in denied credit or a pass/fail option.

- Classroom Conduct – Students are expected to come to class prepared to learn. Other class rules and guidelines will be discussed in class. Students will be responsible for knowing them and conducting themselves accordingly.
- Google Classroom – This site is used to increase communication about classwork, due dates, and data sharing inside and outside of class. Students are expected to use the resource frequently.
- Late Work – Late items categorized under the Personal Management grade will be accepted for ½ credit for one week after the original due date. Work turned in after this 1-week deadline will not be graded. Exceptions will only be made for excused absences. Academic Tests, quizzes, and labs must all be made up within the week (depending on material). Lab material expires, so don't procrastinate!
- Retakes - Students may retake a unit test once, provided they have already worked to complete all the work covered by the unit test.
- Absences – It is the student's responsibility, not the instructor's, to find out which assignments were missed after an absence and make them up in a timely manner.
 - *If you are absent, your handouts will mostly likely be available on Google Classroom. A class calendar can be found here as well.*
 - *Late work is updated each week by Monday afternoon. Please use pinnacle to view your grades and keep track of what is missing!*
- Notebooks – Students are expected to keep a spiral notebook dedicated to this course throughout the semester. These items will be checked during test days and graded for thoroughness and organization. Have them in class daily.
- Textbook Responsibilities - Students are financially responsible for the loss of or damage to their assigned textbooks. Students will be given the opportunity in class to document prior textbook damage. Students will then assume liability for further wear that may take place. Please keep your books covered and store papers in binders, not between textbook pages. It will save you binding fees!
- Willamette Promise: Students taking this course have a fantastic opportunity to earn 10 college credits, 5 each semester. This credit is offered through Willamette Promise and will be transcribed through Western Oregon. The attached paperwork contains details of the program. Students will complete writing assignments, lab write-ups, and a final exam, which will be graded and submitted to Willamette Promise. Students have the choice of whether to accept the resulting grade for college credit and pay \$30. Details will be discussed in class.
- GATTACA: Clips of the feature film “GATTACA” will be used during this course to help students discuss the possible social ramifications of genetic engineering. It is a PG-13 video and has been approved for classroom viewing. By signing the syllabus, you are agreeing to allow your child to watch the clips with the class. Please write a short note if you object and your student will be excused.

***It is important that you read and understand this syllabus. Please take this home with you and return it with the appropriate signatures as soon as possible.

Print Student's Name _____

Biology Period _____

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature