



Arts, Media & Communication, Health & Human Development, Leadership & Learning
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Biology

Mr. David Arias – (heyrrarias@gmail.com)
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Welcome to Northridge Academy High School and to the first semester of Biology! My name is Mr. Arias, and we will be working together this year. In this syllabus, I will outline briefly what you can expect from me this semester and what I expect from you. Specifically, I hope to help students develop their understanding of Biology, as well as their analytical and critical thinking skills in preparation for future science courses and advanced placement tests. Please read this carefully with your parents. If there is anything that you do not understand or if you have questions about anything, please contact me for clarification.

Course Introduction: The focus of this Biology course is student learning through scientific inquiry. This year long course is structured to address the California Content Standards for Biology and will provide building blocks for lifelong learning as well as hands-on laboratory experiences. Topics that will be studied include cell biology, genetics, physiology, evolution and ecology. Students will have opportunities to do individual and group assignments, laboratory experiments, critical thinking activities, research reports and various types of science projects that connect their newly acquired knowledge to real-life experiences. Students will also work to improve their scientific literacy skills. Emphasis will be placed on laboratory safety, understanding the nature of science and the “questioning” process that is the heart of scientific inquiry. It will be a very exciting year!

Expectations: My first priority is providing a safe, student-oriented learning environment. I expect students to conduct themselves responsibly, courteously and to be accountable for their own actions and academic success. Our class rules include the following expectations for all students:

- Be Prompt.* Be in your seat, quiet and ready to work when the bell begins to ring.
- Be Prepared.* Have all supplies, textbook, composition book and completed homework with you.
- Be Productive.* Begin work immediately and stay on task. Do your best work.
- Be Polite.* Show respect to your fellow classmates and to your teacher
- Be Positive.* Have a positive attitude. Take pride in your classroom, your classmates and yourself.

Students who choose to disregard these expectations have a detrimental effect on their own learning, the learning of their fellow students and how well their class functions. Consequences for disregarding these expectations may include student relocation, student/teacher conference, parent/guardian telephone call, student/advisor conference, parent/guardian/advisor conferences, and counselor or administrator involvement to assist students with improved decision-making. Ultimately, repeated or significantly poor decisions will result in lower cooperation and/or work habits grades.

Supplies: These supplies should be brought to class every day.

- A. Covered Textbook - *Biology*
- B. Composition Book (with graph paper)

- C. 3-Ring Binder with notebook paper (may be shared with another class)
- D. Dark Blue or Black ink pens (No other color ink may be used for science course work)
- E. Pencil, eraser and covered sharpener (mechanical pencils allowed)
- F. Colored pencils
- G. Vis-à-vis transparency pen (dark color – blue, black, green, brown or red)

If you are unable to purchase the needed materials, please let me know so that accommodations can be made confidentially.

Attendance: Regular attendance and punctuality are critical for the learning process. A student is to be marked tardy if he or she is not seated and at work when the bell rings. We will have frequent lab activities, group discussions and group decision-making. *The learning dynamic of these group activities cannot be duplicated for absent students.* If you are absent:

1. Get the agenda and lecture notes from a reliable friend. You are responsible for any information presented on the day of your absence. Be sure to hand in any assignments due the day of your absence on the day that you return.
2. Obtaining and completing makeup work is your responsibility.
3. Make-up work for absent students will be available in the student file drawer.
4. Make-up quizzes and tests will be given during lunch or during my office hours for the number of days of your excused absence. Failure to make-up tests and quizzes promptly will result in a grade of zero.
5. Laboratory activities are difficult to make-up. If you miss a lab, alternate activities may be determined on an individual basis. **PLEASE DO NOT MISS BIOLOGY CLASS!**

Homework: Homework will be assigned based upon the needs of the students in meeting the course objectives. Students will be expected to finish any work started in class unless otherwise directed. Homework will be collected at the beginning of class the day it is due. **I do not accept late work** unless previous arrangements are made, in writing. If you have an excused absence, you have one day for each day of absence to complete the missed assignments. Long-term projects are due as assigned without exception. On days when no specific homework is assigned in Biology, I encourage (expect) you to review your vocabulary terms and notes or read for at least 15 minutes every day. This process will help you to learn the material for class discussions and tests.

Evaluation:

Tests, laboratory work, class work, homework and quizzes are evaluated on a point system. There will be no curve. *Course grades* are evaluated based on a percentage of the total points possible:

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	90 – 100
B	80 – 89
C	70 – 79
D	60 – 69
F	Below 60

Work habits and cooperation grades will be assigned each 5-week grading period as follows:

Work Habits

Num.	Student Action	Grade
0	Missing assignments/materials/tardies	E
1 - 3	Missing assignments/materials/tardies	S
4 +	Missing assignments/materials/tardies	U

Cooperation

Num.	Student Behavior	Grade
0	Off task behaviors	E
1 – 3	Off task behaviors	S
4 +	Off task behaviors	U

Academic Integrity: Students will abide by the Code of Academic Integrity. Unless otherwise specified, work is to be done independently. Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work.

Students are encouraged to study together and to discuss information and concepts. You can give or receive "consulting help." This permissible cooperation will never involve one student having possession of work done by someone else (e mail, diskette or hard copy).

If copying of individual work occurs, both the student who copied the work and the student who provided the material will automatically receive a zero for the assignment. Penalty for repeated violation of this rule can also be extended to include failure in this course.

During examinations, you will do your own work. Discussion is not permitted. You may not compare papers, copy from others or collaborate in any way during tests.

Laboratory Policy: To participate in the laboratory experiments, students must pass the Science Safety Test with a 100%. Violation of lab safety rules (including unsafe behavior) will result in a zero on the current lab. Repeated violations will result loss of laboratory privileges until the safety test is retaken and passed with a score of 100%. Most of the lab materials will be provided in class. If you break or damage any lab materials while violating any of the safety rules, you may be responsible for paying the replacement cost of the item.

Accommodations for students with disabilities: In compliance with equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that may be required for students with disabilities.

*Please complete and return the following section to Mr. Arias tomorrow.
This is a homework assignment and will be graded!*

=====
(Tear off)



We have read and understand the Biology course syllabus and agree to follow the classroom policies.

We understand that all homework assignments will be neatly written (or typed) and signed. Lab reports and projects will be typed, unless previous arrangements are made. We understand that late homework assignments will not be accepted, except for documented medical and family reasons.

We expect that the teacher will follow the school's attendance and discipline policies. Regarding classroom management, we understand that our child is expected to follow the classroom guidelines. Parent-teacher journal logs will be used, if necessary. In event the guidelines are not followed, we understand the teacher will implement the consequences that our child has chosen.

In the event our child will be absent for an extended period of time, we will notify the teacher in writing in advance with the dates of absences, the reasons for absence, and to make other arrangements for missed assignments before the absences take place.

We agree to work with the teacher to provide the best possible learning environment for our child.

Student Name (printed) _____ Biology Period _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Name (printed) _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____