**Honors Biology Syllabus**

**South Cobb High School Spring 2014**

**Instructor**: Juan R. Mora **Phone**: 770-819-2611

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**Room:** 703 **Class Blog:** sites.google.com/site/morascience

**Biology** is the study of life. The specific areas covered are: Biochemistry, cells, genetics, classification, evolution, and ecology. This course is ***required for graduation*** and will introduce the students to the various biological functions and processes in addition to the Nature of Science.

The goal of this syllabus is to give the student a summary of the purpose, topics, grading procedure, time line, and class expectations for this class. The purpose of this class is to give students an overview of biology so the student may be better prepared to master the biology standards as set by the Georgia Department of Education in preparation for the class End of Course Test (EOCT) and Georgia High School Graduation Test (GHSGT).

The students’ grade will be determined by an evaluation of the level the student has mastered each standard and an EOCT at the end of the semester. Mastery of the standards will be achieved by the student s’ performance on quizzes, laboratory assignments, individual, group and class activities. Each will be given a point weight within the standard it addresses.

***The Georgia Performance Standards and Percentages:***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Standard** | **Description** | **Percentage of Grade** |
| SB1 | Analyze the nature of the relationships between structures and functions in living cells.  | 14% |
| SB2 | Analyze how biological traits are passed on to successive generations.  | 20% |
| SB3 | Derive the relationship between single-celled, multi-celled organisms & the increasing complexity of systems.  | 14% |
| SB4 | Assess the dependence of all organisms on one another & the flow of energy & matter within their ecosystems.  | 20% |
| SB5 | Evaluate the role of natural selection in the development of the theory of evolution.  | 12% |
| ALL | \*\*\*End of Course Test (EOCT)  | 20% |

To get more information in regard to each standard, go to: <https://www.georgiastandards.org/standards/>

***COBB COUNTY grade scale***:

 90-100 = A

 80-89 = B

 74-79 = C

 70-73 = D

 Below 70 = F

\*\*\* We are required by the Georgia Dept. of Education to give an End-of-course test which is in lieu of a final exam. It is created and graded at the state level. It is *mandatory* by the state to count the test as 20% of the student’s grade. The course material covered will prepare students for the test but attendance is CRUCIAL on the days the test is given, the date of which will be determined.

***Required Materials:***

1. Biology Notebook: Each student needs a 1½ or 2 in. 3-ring binder with 5 dividers labeled:

 warm ups, notes, class work, labs, quizzes/tests, plus have extra paper

1. Pen **(Only blue or black),** pencil, and Highlighter.
2. Biology Textbook - checked out from the library at the beginning of the semester. Students are expected to bring their textbook to class when requested.
3. Colored pencils or markers
4. Student handbook/agenda
5. USB Drive (highly recommended but not required)

***Beginning of class***

At the beginning of every class, you will be given a warm-up activity which will be counted for part of your grade. This must be kept in the warm-up section in your notebook. When you enter class, you should begin this every day. Warm-ups may be taken up randomly for a grade on an “all-or-nothing” basis. Meaning that in order to receive full credit the warm-up must be completed in its entirety.

***Passes***

When you want to leave the room, you must ask for permission. You must sign-out and sign back in every time. You are allowed three free passes per unit. After the third pass, you will lose 2 success points per pass. NOTE: **The first and last 15 minutes of every class is dead time. No hall passes will be issued!**

***Chances to Succeed (Tests)***

You will be given ample notice for chances to succeed, usually a week ahead for chances to succeed/projects. The dates will also be posted in class and on the Biology Class Blog. Generally, the day before a test no new material is covered so if you are absent the day before the test, you are responsible for taking the test since the test was announced and no new material was covered. Academic dishonesty will be an automatic 0. Providing information and/or receiving information relevant to the material a student is being assessed on is considered academic dishonesty.

***Late Work***

When late work will be accepted, it will have 10% point deduction. If an assignment is 2 or more days late there will be an automatic 30% point deduction. No assignments will be accepted after the day of the unit test for that given standard.

***Tardiness***

The tardy policy for South Cobb High School will be followed.

***Attendance***:

It is the **student’s responsibility** to find out what assignments have been missed during an absence and arrange for them to be made up. For each day of an ***excused*** absence, a student has two days to makeup an assignment. If their illness will keep them out of school for more than two days, it is expected that the student will contact the school and request assignments. A blog for the class is maintained which has a description of the weekly activities along with access to most handouts from class. Additionally, if a student loses class materials, then they can print a copy of any handout by accessing the web site which is: sites.google.com/site/morascience

**PLEASE NOTE**:

* Since labs require extensive preparation, they will not be set up for individual students to perform if they were absent. If you are absent the day of a lab, the student must make arrangements for an alternative assignment with the teacher. You will be responsible, though, for material that was covered by the lab that was missed since the purpose of a lab is to reinforce information covered in class.
* If you are absent the day of a test, you are expected to take the test within two days of returning before or after school. If not, you will receive a zero for that exam. All tests will be announced at least a week in advance. If you are absent the day before a test, you are expected to take the test on the regular test date.

***Honesty***:

Plagiarizing and copying assignments (including labs and homework), or cheating on tests and quizzes will not be tolerated. All work is to be done individually. Failure to do so will result in a parent call or conference and a "zero" on the assignment. **All persons involved in academic dishonest will receive a “0” for the assignment.**

**Teaching and Learning Strategies:**

Students will be expected to actively participate in the class in order to do more in-depth and sophisticated activities. A variety of learning approaches such as seminars, field trips, group projects, essays, peer critiques and student presentations will be used.

**Assessments of Student Learning:**

* Quizzes related to current or previous topics will be given periodically with or without warning.
* Chances to Succeed (summative assessments) will be given after a unit of instruction has been completed.
* Homework will include a variety of assignments including, but not limited to, researching new information, weekly article summaries, vocabulary, reading, etc.
* Class work, lab activities, case studies and presentations will also be used to assess student learning.
* The final Chance to Succeed (Final exam) will be a comprehensive assessment covering all material covered during the semester.

**Expectations:**

You are in an Honors class because you are motivated and willing to broaden your understanding of the physical world; because you are curious, objective, and interested in new ideas; and above all, you are ready, willing and able to work and study *every day*. This course is demanding and the successful completion requires your full determination and dedication from beginning to end. You will be expected to:

* Be punctual. You must be *inside* the classroom when the bell rings. Entering the classroom as the bell rings or “right” after the bell rings is considered a tardy.
* Come to class prepared with materials and assignments completed.
* Maintain a positive, collaborative student and teacher interactions.
* Demonstrate academic honesty and personal integrity, through adherence to the Academic Honor Code.
* Keep food and beverages out of the classroom. The only exception is water.
* Absolutely **no cellphones or MP3** **players** in the classroom *unless* explicitly allowed by Mr. Mora.
* The first and last 15 minutes of class is dead time. **No passes** will be given during this time.
* Follow all lab safety rules.
* Ensure your area is clean before you leave.
* Follow and abide by all FTA and classroom procedures.

**Guidelines For Success:** **Remember to SMILE!**

**S**top texting, listening to music, and any other electronic use.

**M**ake sure to turn in assignments on time.

**I**nvolve yourself, respectfully, in classroom discussions.

**L**isten without speaking when the teacher or other classmates are speaking.

**E**xhaust all available resources when solving in-class assignments.

All school policies will be enforced. Students must be familiar with and abide by the guidelines in the SCHS Handbook pertaining to such areas as discipline, attendance, appearance, and academic honesty.

**Success Points**

Success points may be earned throughout each unit through a variety of opportunities. Success Points are percentage points that may be applied to each unit’s chance to succeed. You may apply up to 10 success point for each chance to succeed. **Note:** Success Points are a privilege and may be revoked at any time.

**Detention:**

Students may receive detention for not adhering to FTA procedures or the teacher’s rules and expectations. Students will receive a verbal warning prior to receiving detention. If a student receives detention, that student must serve at the designated date and time and will lose ALL success points accrued up to that point for that given unit. If a student receives a second detention within a unit, that student will lose all success points and will be exempt from any further success points for that unit.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* CUT HERE AND KEEP BOTTOM PORTION FOR YOUR REFERENCE\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

**TEACHER CONTACT INFORMATION CARD FOR PARENTS:**

Should you need to contact Mr. Mora, please use the information provided below. Please cut off the bottom of this sheet and keep for you records. Return the top portion to Mr. Mora. Your student will keep the syllabus for future reference.

SCHOOL ADDRESS: EMAIL: Juan.Mora@cobbk12.org

South Cobb High School

ATTN: Juan Mora

1920 Clay Road PLANNING PERIOD: 2nd Block, 10:30am - 11:15am

Austell, Georgia 30060

 WEBSITE: sites.google.com/site/morascience

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Block\_\_\_\_

**Acknowledgement of Receipt of Course Information**

 **Biology Spring 2013**

 **Please return by Monday, January 13th. If you return on Friday, January 10th, you will receive a 2 Success Points.**

Please go over your syllabus and course outline with your parents/guardians. After you have read each of them, both of you need to sign and date this page. Your signature acknowledges the fact that both of you have read and understood the syllabus, course outline, safety contract and hall pass procedure.

**Parent/Guardian Name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

***Contact info:*** (This is kept confidential but is necessary to have for emergency situations, especially since Biology is a lab course)

**Home and/or Cell phone:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Work phone:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent/Guardian E-mail address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* **Student:** I have read the rules and procedures in the Biology syllabus and understand them. I will honor these rules and procedures while in Mr. Mora’s class.

 \*\*Student signature: Date:

* **Parent/Guardian:** My child has discussed the rules and procedures in the Biology syllabus with me. I understand them and support them.

 \*\*Parent signature: Date:

# SAFETY CONTRACT FOR BIOLOGY

As a South Cobb High School Biology student, I will adhere to the following safety rules.

1. I will follow all general and specific instructions given by the instructor for a lab activity.
2. I will study my assignment and read the purpose and procedure prior to entering the lab. If I am in doubt about any procedure, I will ask the instructor for help.
3. I will not perform activities that are unauthorized, nor will I engage in inappropriate behavior while I am in the laboratory.
4. I will dress sensibly and appropriately for lab. I will avoid long, loose sleeves, dangling earrings and other large items of jewelry, and clothing that interferes with movement. I will not work in the laboratory with bare feet, open-toed shoes, or high heels.
5. I will wear protective eyewear (safety glasses or goggles) and/or protective clothing (aprons) throughout the entire period that I am in the laboratory.
6. I will use the safety equipment provided when needed. I will become familiar with the locations of the fire extinguisher, the safety shower, the eye wash, and the first aid kit.
7. I will immediately report to the instructor any accident, injury, incorrect procedure, or damaged equipment.
8. I will inspect all glassware and place broken glass and waste chemicals in designated containers. I will keep insoluble waste materials out of the sinks.
9. I will never place any chemical substance into my mouth during any lab activity.
10. I will not bring any food, drink, candy or chewing gum into the laboratory, except for what may be wrapped in bags at my desk.
11. I will take all reasonable precautions to keep my hair well out of the way of my work area.
12. I will follow good housekeeping and good safety precautions in cleaning spills, replacing caps on containers, and replacing materials that are for general use.
13. When heating test tubes, I will not look down into the test tube or point it in the direction of another individual.
14. Upon completion of any lab activity, I will make sure that the water my work station is turned off and that any electrical apparatus I have been using at my work area is disconnected. I will make sure that nothing is left in the sink next to my work station. I will clean my work area and return all equipment and other materials I have been using to their proper places.
15. Just before or immediately after leaving the laboratory I will wash my hands thoroughly.
16. I will report the loss or breakage of any materials checked out to me to the instructor.
17. If an accident or injury should occur, I will follow appropriate first-aid procedures.

**LAB SAFETY**

I also understand that failure to adhere to the preceding safety rules and other applicable regulation, or endangering myself or any other member(s) of the class, will result in my removal from the lab area, a zero for the assignment, and appropriate disciplinary action.

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Student Name (printed)

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Student Signature

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Parent Name (printed)

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Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date