

Biology: 2019-2020

Glencoe High School

Instructor: Mr. Stanley stanleyr@hsd.k12.or.us

CLASS WEBSITE: <http://mrstanley.weebly.com/freshman-biology.html>

Welcome to Biology:

The emphases of this course will be on the nature of science and inquiry, currently accepted theories and content, ecology, and current biological issues. Whenever possible these threads will be woven through the basic biological topics which will comprise the curriculum. These topics will include the nature of science, inquiry, cell biology, ecology and environmental issues, evolution, taxonomy and diversity, biochemistry, nutrition, cellular respiration and photosynthesis, cell division, DNA, reproduction and genetics.

Interesting learning activities will be provided to stimulate comprehension, retention and a sense of valuing of the topics studied. Concept-oriented, hands-on learning activities will be used whenever possible. Cooperative team-work is a major component of this course. Coursework will be planned to insure that the student reaches or exceeds Hillsboro School District and Oregon State Standards, along with NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards) where possible.

The use of technology, career awareness, safety, current events in science and laboratory techniques will be integrated throughout the course.

Life Science Curriculum Standards as per the State of Oregon:

Organisms:

Describe, explain, and compare the structure and functions of cells in organisms.

Heredity:

Explain laws of heredity and their relationship to the structure and function of DNA.

Evolution:

Analyze how living things have changed over geological time, using fossils and other scientific evidence.

Diversity / Interdependence:

Describe and analyze the effect of species, including humans, on an ecosystem.

The Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) as per the Oregon Department of Education can be

found here: <http://www.nextgenscience.org/next-generation-science-standards>

Required Materials:

1. Composition Book (will be referred to in class at the INTERACTIVE NOTEBOOK)
2. Pens and pencils
3. Textbook – will be available as needed for class use. Students may check out a book from me if they need to.

Absences:

Regular attendance is the best assurance of receiving the information you need to be successful in class. If you are absent for any reason:

1. SPEAK WITH YOUR CLASSMATES.
2. BORROW THEIR MATERIALS (NOTES, HANDOUTS, ETC.).
3. CHECK THE CLASS WEBSITE.
4. Ask the teacher.

If you are absent for a number of days in a row, you have that number of days +1 to turn in work from that stretch. Prolonged absences (greater than a day or two) are usually quite challenging for all of us – do not get behind!

Labs can realistically only be performed at school, and the equipment is available on a limited basis. It is the student's responsibility to arrange a time before or after school, or during lunch, to makeup a lab. Written assignments OFTEN replace the makeup lab at the teacher's discretion, and by *prior arrangement* with the teacher.

Tardiness:

Students are expected to be in the room and at his/her seat when the bell rings. No hall passes will be issued in the first, or last, 20 minutes of class (20/20 rule). The school policy states that students arriving after the bell are tardy, and will be given detention.

Cheating, a.k.a. Academic Dishonesty:

The worst a student can do on any whole graded item (exam, quiz, lab, assignment, etc.) is 50% of the points.

Students are encouraged to converse and assist with other students when it is in a manner that is not inconsistent with testing or assignment instructions. Assisting others is prohibited, however, when it would constitute academic dishonesty. Prohibited events include, but are not limited to, using or sharing prohibited study aids or other written materials on tests or assignments. Academic dishonesty also includes sharing, collaborating, or communicating with others on tests or assignments, before or during tests or assignments, in violation of direction of the class instructor. Academic dishonesty may also include knowingly sharing false information or knowingly misleading another to reach a false answer or conclusion. Plagiarism, or using ideas or writings of another as your own, will not be tolerated. Students who engage in academic dishonesty may complete an alternative assessment chosen by staff. Discipline may involve the District prohibiting the student from participating in school-sponsored activities or events; detention, denial, or revocation of school-conferred titles, distinctions, honors or privileges; or suspension or expulsion.

Evaluation and Grading:

To EARN your Forensics grade, each semester's marks will be calculated as follows:

<u>Grading Scale:</u>
A = 90-100%
B = 80-89%
C = 70-79%
D = 60-69%
F = < 59%

<u>Categories:</u>	
Tests & Quizzes	80 %
Labs, Assignments	20 %

I do not round up grades. If, for example, you receive a 79.9%, that is a very high 'C' grade indeed. Students concerned about being on the border at grading time should take full opportunity of test fixes, and any other chance to earn points – including, most importantly, preparing diligently for exams.

In addition to the course hours in the classroom, the expectation for work completion outside of class includes approximately **20** hours. Activities might include homework, projects, readings, exam preparation and group work.

The worst a student can do on any graded item is 50% of the points, or an 'F' grade (Cheating may be an exception). If a student does not show passing proficiency with the required subject matter on any graded assignment, does not turn an item in, or simply doesn't take a quiz or exam, that student receives 50% of possible points.

Re-takes: I strongly discourage retaking exams for a variety of reasons. The re-take may be an entirely different exam, testing the same content, but in an entirely different format – usually essay.

Fixes: Students wishing to improve their score on an exam or quiz can often (but not always) “fix” it by writing complete sentences that feature the information they did not master first time around. Spelling and grammar count, and the amount of fix points is determined by the instructor, but can amount to an entire letter grade improvement. **STUDENTS MUST BE PRESENT ON THE ORIGINAL TEST DAY, AND ON THE DAY OF FIXES TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THESE IN-CLASS FIX POINTS.** Make-up fix points can be earned if a student was absent, but they involve considerably more effort and writing.

Late Work:

Students are eligible to earn A MAXIMUM OF 75% OF THE POSSIBLE POINTS for late work. Late work is accepted up to 10 calendar days – assuming no holidays – after the original due date.

If a student was in class

1. On the day the assignment was given, **AND**
2. On the day it was due

then they need to turn it in when I ask for it. Otherwise, it will be marked “Late”.

Cell phones, ear buds, headphones, and tablets:

There is never a reason to use a cell phone in my class, for any reason. Phones, and phone accessories, are to be ***Invisible Bell to Bell***. Phones that are used, or are visible, will be taken to the office by the student. 1st offense – Cell phone picked up at the end of the day. 2nd offense – Cell phone taken to office, parent/guardian notified, and parent/guardian may pick-up in main office. 3rd offense – Parent/teacher/administration conference.

Laptops, or tablets with a separate keypad, may be permissible per arrangement with instructor.

Kindly,

Mr. Stanley

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The Learning Pyramid

