

OHHS Biology Department

Course Syllabus



Course Name: Honors Biology Trimester A and Trimester B

Course Code: SCO1HA/ SCO1HB

Course Description: Welcome to Honors Biology! You have chosen a rigorous, enriching course. Honors Biology will require consistent effort and a mature approach to a challenging curriculum. Honors Biology students will be expected to work more independently and to demonstrate a more in-depth understanding of biological concepts. Biology is a relevant and potentially exciting course that introduces students to many basic science concepts. This two trimester course places an emphasis on the following topics: cell biology, biochemistry, energy through systems, genetics and heredity, evolution, and human systems.

Prerequisites

Successful grade in 8th grade honors math and science recommended or teacher recommendation

Course Resources

- Textbooks: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Biology.
- Supplemental: Various books, lab books, and articles will be provided throughout the semester.

Course Outline/Instructional Units

The Honors Biology course will be developed around the Next Generation Science Standards for high school life science and a few standards for high school earth science. The course will be focused on the following concepts:

Trimester A

- Ecology: biodiversity, food webs, energy pyramid, population growth, human impact on ecological systems
- Cell Energy: photosynthesis and cellular respiration
- Nutrient Cycles: nitrogen and carbon
- History of the Earth's atmosphere and climate change

Trimester B

- DNA: structure of DNA and the production of proteins; role of mutations in variation
- Genetics and inheritance: patterns of inheritance
- Natural selection and the evidence for evolution: adaptation, variation, and fitness; key evidence
- Plate tectonics: movement of plates over time throughout Earth's history

Major Assessments

Assessments include: unit exams, projects, and a minimum of one complete formal lab report for each semester.

OHHS Grading Scale – School Wide

Weighted Categories

Category	Percentage of overall grade
Assessments (Exams, Labs, and Projects)	75%
Quizzes	15%
Daily Work	10%
Formative Assessment	0%
Letter Grade	Percentage
A	93% and above
A-	90% - 92%
B+	88% - 89%
B	83% - 87%
B-	80% - 82%
C+	78% - 79%
C	73% - 77%
C-	70% - 72%
D+	68% - 69%
D	60% - 67%
F	59% and below

Absences on Lab Days – This Classroom

If you are absent it is your responsibility to find out what you missed and make it up. If your absence is not excused (according to the school approved reasons) within 48 hours it will be considered unexcused and the work missed that day will be available to you, but not for credit. If you are absent from a lab day where data is gathered you will have one of two choices

- ✓ Choice one: Come in after school on the lab make-up day and gather your own data.
- ✓ Choice two: Copy down the data from a group that was here that day

- If you decide choice one and the absence is **excused** then you will have up to 100 percent of the points available to you.
- If you decide choice two and the absence is **excused** then you will have up to 75 percent of the points available to you.
- If the absence is **unexcused** you will receive zero credit on the lab report.

Re-Do Policy – School Wide

OHHS is an effort based school where we believe all students can learn. We also know that students learn at different rates. Thus, we implement a re-do policy that recognizes the needs of individual learners.

- 100% Re-do
 1. Assessments (with exception of the Final trimester exam)
- Teachers may:
 1. Require completion of supporting assignments prior to re-do opportunities for students to show they can meet the standard.
 2. Require students to complete re-do of work outside of class time.
 3. Limit the number of re-do opportunities for each assignment.
 4. Assign zero grades when students choose not to do key assignments and/or assessments to standard.
 5. Have different requirements for late work.
- All opportunities will come with a deadline as assigned by the teacher.

Late Work Policy – This Classroom

- Daily Work – may be turned in up to the end of the unit for reduced credit.
- Assessments – Teacher will provide 3-4 specific dates for redo opportunities.
 1. This includes labs and projects.
 2. Student can earn up to 100% if the assessment is completed in the classroom.
 3. If the assessment (excluding exams) is completed at home, student may earn reduced credit.

- All work must be completed by the end of a unit. Revision of work will not be permitted from one quarter to the next.

Extra Help

If a student would like extra help on concepts teachers will establish set days for tutoring. Students are encouraged to attend tutoring opportunities provided by Honor Society and Link Crew.

OHHS Plagiarism Policy

Any student, who knowingly turns in any work that has been done by someone other than himself or herself, and fraudulently represents it as his/her own, shall be considered to have cheated. Cheating also includes: aiding someone else in cheating, the use or preparation of written, pictorial, or other materials not authorized by the instructor during a test or assignment, the use of testing materials obtained previous to the test date, or plagiarism of any kind. Students found cheating will also be subject to an office referral, which could result in a suspension. Based on the premise that we are an effort based school, students will be required to do their own work to show their learning. Thus, this will fall under the "Late Work Policy" of the teacher where total possible points may be reduced.