



Honors Biology 391

◆ Guidelines & Expectations ◆

GENERAL PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS:

Students accepted into Honors Biology must be independent, self-motivated, proactive learners. You must be competent in skills related to acquiring information through reading, study, research, and electronic searches. Daily class preparation will involve textbook and supplemental reading assignments. You will be required to use information-gathering skills to organize and utilize information. You will be expected to apply intellectual skills (classifying, hypothesizing, interpreting, analyzing, summarizing, synthesizing, and evaluating) when dealing with reading material, laboratory data, and class discussions.

Students in Honors Biology should work cooperatively with others, demonstrate purposeful and positive classroom behavior, exhibit an inquisitive attitude and knowledge of scientific methodology, complete assignments on time, and assume responsibility for maintaining safety standards during laboratory activities and clean apparatus and area following investigations.

Students are strongly encouraged to participate in the various local, state, and national science programs and competitions.

Students in this course are also expected to

- use additional materials as assigned to supplement the regular text
- use additional time (after school or unassigned periods) to complete curriculum objectives and activities
- demonstrate superior ability when completing assignments
- stay ahead of class activities with reading assignments and be prepared to answer questions dealing with chapter objectives orally in class
- appropriately organize time if involved in after school activities and/or taking additional honors level courses
- seek help in understanding material if needed

CLASSROOM REGULATIONS:

In addition to all regulations in the student handbook:

- Come to class on time and prepared.
- No food or drink is permitted in class (unless I give it to you!)
- Class is over when I dismiss you, not when you hear the bell. Please remain in your seat until dismissed.
- There is to be no talking unless you raise your hand and you are recognized.
- Politeness and good manners are expected at all times! You must show respect to receive respect.

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:

Intellectual dishonesty is unacceptable. This includes answers from another student or “cheat sheet” during a test, copying/sharing homework, and plagiarizing in written assignments (see www.indiana.edu/~wts/wts/plagiarism.html for an explanation and tips avoiding plagiarism). All assignments are individually completed and are to be your own work, unless it is announced to be a group assignment. Students found guilty of dishonesty will receive a zero for the assignment.

GRADING:

50% tests/quizzes, 30% labs, 10% participation/homework/misc., 10% project

- Besides content, assignments are graded for proper grammar, spelling, and writing.
- Extra credit is NOT offered each quarter, although you can achieve a few bonus points on an assignment.

All tests, quizzes, major projects, etc. are kept in a student portfolio in the classroom. Portfolios may be reviewed at any time in the classroom, but may not be removed for security reasons.

HOMEWORK:

Homework will generally consist of reading. Other assignments will be given regularly to review concepts from class, and offer you the chance to practice the newly learned knowledge and discover any problems that you have with the material.

- Reading assignments may be followed by a “pop” quiz the next day.
- *NO late homework will be accepted! (two free late tickets each semester)*

TESTS:

Chapter tests will be given on a regular basis. All tests will be announced many days in advance; therefore, do not wait until the last minute to study! Review sessions (when possible) will be scheduled to allow you to come in for help or to review material before the test. It is important that you develop good study habits. When we are planning to cover a particular chapter, you are responsible for reading that chapter before we cover it in class. I recommend that you take your own notes while reading- this is a great study habit and will virtually guarantee you good grades! *All material covered in class and in the textbook reading could be asked on your test!*

LABORATORY:

You will be required to complete lab work involving a wide range of experiences, including at least one extensive dissection. Formal labs involve cooperative learning activities with all members of a GROUP being graded as a unit. All members of a lab group will receive the same grade for their written lab report. All members of the group are expected to participate equally in completion of the class activities and written report.

Formal lab reports must be TYPED and use the following format:

1. Problem
2. Hypothesis
3. Procedure
4. Data (charts, graphs)
5. Analysis (what happened?)
6. Summary (why do you think it happened?)

Informal lab activities usually involve individual completion of assigned worksheets.

Labs will be fun learning experiences if you follow a few guidelines:

1. Inappropriate behavior and failure to follow safety guidelines may involve disciplinary action and a zero grade for the activity.
2. You must completely clean-up your lab area before you are dismissed.
3. Pre-lab assignments are given before lab to prepare you for the activity. Time is of the essence! You must be ready to work!
 - A. If you are not prepared for the lab, you will not be permitted to participate in the lab with the class, and you will complete the lab on your own time.
 - B. If you do not complete a lab in the time provided, you must complete the lab on your own time.

INDEPENDENT RESEARCH REQUIREMENT:

All students are required to complete an independent (outside of class) research project. The research may be completed individually or as a team (2-3). Carefully select your partners if working as a team. (Note: some restrictions apply to team projects at science fairs). The project will involve both library/electronic and experimental research. It should be an extensive study of some area of the sciences.

Each student/team is required to keep a logbook for the duration of the project. This is a chronological record of all activities involving their project work. This book will be reviewed each marking period to determine progress of the project. The teacher may retain all research papers at the end of the year. See separate handouts for research paper format and additional activities.

The research project accounts for 10% of the quarterly grade. In addition to this, for the final (4th) marking period, the completed research project will ALSO count as two test grades.

ABSENCE POLICY:

You are required to make up any work that you miss due to absence. *It is your responsibility to obtain the work that you missed.*

- You are given twice the number of days that you were absent to complete any work, unless many days notice was given.
- If you are absent the day of a test but were in school the day before, you will be expected to take the test on the day you return. Written assignments are also expected to be completed and submitted on your day of return.
- Tests are announced many days in advance. If you are absent just the day before a test when many days notice was given, you are expected to take the test with the rest of the class. Take your books home and begin studying a few days before the test! Don't wait until the night before the test!
- Make-up tests will usually be different from the regular test and have a different (usually essay) format.

RECOMMENDED MATERIALS:

Besides the basics, you will need: 1) 2" binder with filler paper, 2) index cards (3x5, 5x8), 3) research logbook [separate single subject notebook], 4) folder for project

HELP!

If you need extra help with class material, you can see me at any time (study halls, lunch, etc.) as long as I am not teaching. I'm also available at other times by appointment. You can also try contacting me via email. NHS also offers tutoring.

HOW TO CONTACT ME:

Mr. Smith

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