

2023-2024 Honors Biology Syllabus

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Course Description

This course focuses on the major biological concepts outlined in the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. This course will be divided into the following five units:

- Unit 1: Biochemistry
- Unit 2: Cellular Theory
- Unit 3: Evolution
- Unit 4: Genetics
- Unit 5: Ecology

I am enthusiastically looking forward to an exciting, challenging year. I plan to work with you as your partner and guide you through Honors Biology. I hope you will attack this course with a serious, positive, mature, intense attitude. The study of biology should be both fun and fascinating!

Course Goals

1. To provide students with a good honors-level introductory biology course. Part of that is fulfilling the time commitment for studying/homework.
2. To prepare students well for standardized tests by helping students acquire the necessary content information and training students in exam strategies and lab report writing skills.
3. To help students develop a conceptual framework for modern biology and to help students gain an appreciation of science as a process. The ongoing information explosion in biology makes this goal even more challenging.

Textbook, Materials, and Online Lecture Notes

Students are required to bring their binder and pens to class on a daily basis. Students are not allowed to go to their locker during class. It is not necessary to bring the textbook to class.

The textbook will be used in conjunction with a variety of other instructional tools throughout the year. Students will be responsible for reading assigned textbook chapters. Articles, labs, and other resources will supplement the textbook.

Additionally, students are *REQUIRED* to print and utilize outlines/notes from www.zunick.com and bring them to class PRIOR to the beginning of each chapter.

Two-Inch Binder

Students must purchase a 2” 3-ring binder that is to be used solely for this biology course. The binder must contain 5 sections that are separated by dividers. The dividers must be labeled with the titles of the 5 units (Biochemistry, Cellular Theory, Evolution, Genetics, Ecology).

THE BINDER MUST BE SET UP IN THIS MANNER. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS. FOLDERS, SPIRAL NOTEBOOKS, ETC. WILL NOT BE GRADED DURING NOTEBOOK CHECKS!

Grading

Marking period grades will be determined primarily by lab reports, problem sets, videos, quizzes, notebook checks, and projects. Assignments typically have the following point values:

- Lab Reports = 25 points
- Problem Sets = 10 points
- Videos = 10 points
- Quizzes = 100 points
- Projects = 100 points

Marking period grades will be determined as follows:

- Formal Assessments = 60%
- Labs and Assignments = 40%

Since this is an honors class, there will be very little (if any) extra credit offered.

Make certain that all assignments, reports, and evaluations are completed on time. Late work will only be accepted (with a grade penalty) with prior permission from the teacher. Please note that certain assignments will not be accepted late for any reason.

Students who miss a class for any reason will be responsible for making up all work before the next scheduled class. Students who are absent on the day an assignment is due must submit the work to Mr. Zunick by the beginning of the class period. Work submitted after that time will be counted as a late assignment. Students who are absent for any reason on the day of a test or quiz will take a different version of the test or quiz.

Academic Dishonesty / Rules

Students are expected to do their own work. Any copying of work will result in no credit (a zero) for the assignment for all individuals involved. There are *NO EXCEPTIONS* to this policy. Please note that it will be nearly impossible for a student to pass for the marking period if he or she receives a “zero” on a quiz as a result of cheating. Students who are caught cheating may be withdrawn from the honors program.

All written reports must be completed using Google Docs and Google Classroom in “real time”. Students are not allowed to complete written work in a different program (for example, Microsoft Word) and then paste or upload the completed document to Google Classroom. All work completed using Google Docs and submitted using Google Classroom has a time stamp. The time stamp for all edits of the assignment must be visible in order for the assignment to be scored. **ANY WORK SUBMITTED WITHOUT THE TIME STAMPS WILL BE SCORED AS A ZERO.** There are *NO EXCEPTIONS* to this policy.

All RMHS rules and regulations are in effect in this class. For example, cell phones, tablets, and other technological devices will be confiscated if they are out for *ANY REASON* in class. There is also a “ZERO-TOLERANCE” policy for insubordination.