



The SEED School of Maryland

BIOLOGY

Course Syllabus 2020-2021

Welcome to the School Year 2020-2021. Below are some of the class policies established to facilitate success for all students in this class. The SEED School of Maryland school policies will take the place of any of the following if they are found to be contradictory.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In 9th Grade Biology, students study a variety of life processes and learn how different organisms meet the challenges of living in their environment. Major biological concepts for student focus include the relationship between structure and function, inheritance and variation of traits, matter and energy in organisms and ecosystems, interdependent relationships in ecosystems, and natural selection and evolution.

Students learn to use laboratory equipment and materials to collect data and then develop advanced inquiry and reasoning skills, such as designing a plan for collecting data, analyzing data, applying mathematical routines, and connecting concepts in and across domains. The result will be readiness for the study of advanced topics in subsequent college courses. This course is a state assessed course.

MAJOR TOPICS OF STUDY: This course is divided into 6 units of study.

First Semester/ Second Semester	
I. Structure and Function A. Structure of DNA B. Structure of Protein C. Hierarchical Structural Organization D. Feedback Mechanism	IV. Inheritance and Variation of Traits A. Mitosis & Cellular Differentiation B. DNA & Chromosomes C. Meiosis D. Inheritable Genetic Variations
II. Matter and Energy in Organisms A. Photosynthesis B. Cellular Respiration C. Carbon-based molecules D. Inputs and Outputs	V. Natural Selection and Evolution A. Evidence for Evolution B. Natural Selection C. Adaptation D. Changes in Environmental Conditions
III. Matter and Energy in Ecosystems A. Aerobic & Anaerobic Respiration B. Food Chain & Food Web C. Cycling of Matter D. Pyramid Models	VI. Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems A. Carrying Capacity B. Biodiversity C. Group Behavior D. Impacts of Human Activity on Biodiversity

GRADING POLICY:

The following letter grades are issued at the Upper School, SEED School of Maryland:

A – 100% to 93% (4.0)	B – 86% to 83% (3.0)	C – 76% to 73% (2.0)
A- – 92% to 90% (3.75)	B- – 82% to 80% (2.75)	C- – 72% to 70% (1.75)
B+ – 89% to 87% (3.25)	C+ – 79% to 77% (2.25)	F – 69 & below (0.0)

The following percentage will be utilized in calculating a student grade:

FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT		
Class work assignments (independent practice),		70%
In class written responses (warm-up, journal reflection entries)		
Group work, Class Participation Grade (see below)		
Quizzes		
SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENTS		20%
Tests, Projects		
Major presentations (lab reports), Long writing assignments (term papers, lab skill)		
HOMEWORK		10%
Homework (and vocabulary) worksheets		
Quarter Grade		100%

CLASSWORK/HOMEWORK:

All class work assignments are due at the end of the period unless otherwise stated. This grading category include many types of assignments including (but not limited to) daily warm-up which will be checked and collected at the end of the time allotted, routine assignments completed in class, regular homework assignments, and class participation. Participation grades will be included in the grading policy, and they will be given according to the following system.

PARTICIPATION & BEHAVIOR: KICKBOARD

“SEED Maryland will effectively measure school culture by consistently capturing student behavior data for all students. SEED Maryland leaders will ensure success by aligning behavior logic in Kickboard to the culture systems used at SEED.”

This chart contains behaviors that are recorded in Kickboard.

Skills Strengths	Improvement Areas
Compassion (+1)	Appropriate dress (-1)
Integrity (+1)	No homework (0)
Perseverance (+1)	Accepting feedback (-1)
Respect (+1)	Appropriate words (-1)
Responsibility (+1)	Contraband (-1)
Self-discipline (+1)	Disagreeing appropriately (-1)
Teamwork (+1)	Following instructions (-1)
Appropriate dress (+1)	Out of bounds (-1)
	Tardiness (-1)
	Using technology appropriately (-1)

ATTENDANCE:

You are strongly encouraged to come to class every day so that you will successfully **pass the course and eventually finish High School**. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of the class period. Secure a pass from your previous teacher if you know that you will be late for class. Students who come late to class are encouraged to coach class from 1:35 – 2:35 pm if they need clarification or information. Repeated tardiness will result in a **referral to PYD** and a **call home to your parent or guardian**. Students who are absent will have the opportunity to make-up any missed work in as many days as they have a **valid, excused absence**, and will receive full credit for that work. If you are absent you must provide a note signed by your parent/legal guardian to the school nurse in order for your absence to be excused. Without a proper documentation your absence may not be excused and this will result in your inability to make up any work. You may lose course credit if you fall below 90% attendance.

MAKE-UP WORK POLICY:

Students will have as many days as they have excused absence to complete missing work. Students on academic probation must attend **Coach Class** (1:35 PM – 2:35 PM Tuesdays). **Re-testing** is available to those who fail an announced exam, and is scheduled the same time as coach class. Students who choose **not** to complete an assignment during class will not be given an opportunity to make-up that work. For example, if a student falls asleep in class or refuses to do the work, the teacher will grade the assignment as submitted. That grade earned stands, and the student will not have the opportunity to re-do the work for additional points.

LATE WORK POLICY:

* Assignments in the Homework Category must be turned in on time. Failure to submit work in this category will result in a “zero” for that assignment.

* Assignments in the Formative categories will be accepted late as follows:

- Up to 4 days late (1 week) – 5 % reduction, maximum score is 95% of total
- Up to 8 days late (2 weeks)– 10 % reduction, maximum score is 90% of total
- After 12 days late (3 weeks) – Zero grade. Late work will not be accepted.

* Students with special circumstances should work with teachers to determine alternate individualized due dates when appropriate. Extensions to original due dates are subject to teacher discretion.

* Extensions for due dates should be requested **in advance** and will be **noted in** the comment section in **PowerSchool**. Asking for an extension on or after the due date is not acceptable practice.

DISCIPLINE:

Classroom rules and procedures are implemented to establish routines in class. Level I infractions (failure to follow rules/procedures, classroom disruption, internet/computer misuse, etc) and Level II infractions (repeated Level I, class cutting, insubordination, etc) and any academic misconduct (cheating & plagiarism) will be addressed per guidelines written in the Student Handbook. Students assigned to Positive Youth Development (PYD) are responsible for getting all make up work from the teacher and turning it in as described in the previous section.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Every student must have the following materials everyday: laptop, paper, pencils/pens, and required homework. Failure to bring these materials will cause you to be considered “unprepared” and may result in a call home. The need for other materials (colored pencils, markers, glue, scissors, etc) will be considered by the teacher on as needed basis.

LAB SAFETY:

Virtual labs will be utilized to complement other digital learning tools. To avoid accidents, each student must be responsible for pre-reviewing and observing proper safety laboratory procedures should we get back to face-to-face instruction. If a student needs clarifications regarding any aspect of the laboratory or classroom exercise, he/she must not continue until after consulting with the teacher and fully understanding the procedures enough to proceed safely.

TEXTBOOK INFORMATION:

BIOLOGY by Stephen Nowicki ISBN 978-0-547-58666-3 Copyright 2012 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION:

Dr. MA Legaspi Room 216 Email: mlegaspi@seedschoolmd.org (preferred)



The SEED School of Maryland
GROUD RULES FOR ONLINE CLASSROOM



Participate:

- Show up a few minutes before class time and wait to be admitted into the class. Join with your video on.
- Find a quiet place free of distractions (siblings, TV, parents, pets, etc)
- Provide insightful commentary in the online discussions.
- Any communications with your instructor or fellow students are best handled through email.
- Only post on the classroom discussion board if the conversation is relevant to others in the class.
- Review all discussion postings before posting your own to prevent redundancy.
- Avoid taking phone calls, paying online games and having conversations in these shared spaces.



Respect Diversity:

- Be respectful at all times.
- Stay on "Mute". If you have a question or something to share, click the "Raise Hand" button and state your name to be acknowledged.
- Profanity will not be tolerated. Offensive language must be avoided.
- Criticism must be constructive, well-meaning, and well-articulated.
- Remember to say "Please" and "Thank you" as appropriate.



Proper writing style:

- Correct spelling, grammar, and style are expected in all scholarship and academic writing.
- Be aware that typing in all capital letters indicates shouting could indicate shouting or emphasis.
- Acronyms (LOL, etc.) and emoticons (smilies) are commonly used online, but be careful not to overuse them.



Help others:

- Respect the privacy of your classmates and what they share in class. Never do anything to publicly embarrass anyone online.
- Derogatory and sarcastic comments (ex., name-calling, cursing) and jokes are unacceptable.

CONSEQUENCES

- Verbal/Written Warning
- Student-teacher conference
- Loss of participation points
- Detention
- Call home
- Parent/Guardian conference
- Write-up/Office Referral

- Positive phone calls or notes to parents
- Verbally citing student accomplishments
- Displaying student work
- Bonus Points/Surprises
- Recognition
- Recommendation letters for colleges, work and scholarships