**General Biology Course Content:**

General Biology is an introductory course which surveys many topics within the field of biology. You will learn the structure and function of many parts of living organisms (including yourself), the biochemistry of life, environmental impacts, medical applications, and much more. You will also learn basic laboratory skills and how to apply your knowledge to creating research projects of your own. This course is meant to prepare you for further study in more specific fields of biology, ecology, medical fields, or in your own life.

**Class Structure**  **Class materials**: Please come to class prepared. You will need to bring the following materials to class each day:

-pencil/pen, 3 ring binder (with 5 dividers), calculator, colored pencils, scissors -You may also wish to have a ruler, highlighter, and glue available

**Attendance:** You should come to class each day. If you are absent, you are responsible for determining what you have missed, getting make-up work, and getting missed notes. See me right away if you missed class. Unexcused tardiness will not be tolerated.

**Quizzes & Exams**: Exams will be given periodically throughout the term and will include multiple choice, true/false, matching, and essay questions.

**Labs & Homework**: There will be homework and labs throughout the course. I expect you to read each chapter that we cover in the book in addition to homework, labs and notes taken in class. We will do as many labs as possible and you are expected to cooperate with your lab groups to get the best grades possible on lab work.

**Grading Policy**

Grades for this class are determined on a straight percentage scale. Therefore, your success is determined on individual abilities and participation. There are no curves for any grades in this class. As with most other classes, it is an 80/20 (test/homework) grading scale.

Percentage Scale: A – 90% and above B – 80% C – 70% D – 60% (Do not drop below this!)

LATE WORK POLICY: I will accept late work up to the unit test for 1⁄2 credit. \*Do not wait until the end of the term to turn in work...it will not help your grade!

**Course Expectations**I have specific expectations of each of you while you are taking this class. I expect the following:

**Respect for yourself** and your quality of work for the semester. I expect you to try your best and produce the best work you can. You all start to class with an A and your job is to maintain that grade for the rest of the semester. It won’t be easy but you are all capable of maintaining it!

**Respect for each person** in the room. This includes listening to others and remaining quiet while they are speaking or working. When asking questions or asking for help during labs, please raise your hands. I will see your hand before I hear your voice and if I am helping someone else, I don’t want to be interrupted. Your turn will come soon...be patient. During labs, trust yourself to be able to figure things out and solve problems before asking for help.

**Respect the environment** in which you are working. This includes the place that you are in during class, whether inside or outside. All organisms, materials, and equipment will be maintained and used appropriately. Before you leave each day, ALL of your materials need to be put away and lab stations cleaned (depending on activity). This includes garbage, papers, and anything else you have used in class.

**Closing Comments**

This course can be challenging and enjoyable! It is important to stay on task and up to date. If there are any things you are excited to learn about, let me know and maybe we will be able to spend a day on some of your favorite topics! In order to be successful, I have a few suggestions: (1) stay organized, (2) participate in class each day, (3) turn in your homework on time, and (4) ask questions when you need help. I hope you enjoy the course!