**EL Biology Syllabus**

**Instructor**: Ms. Holman (310)

**Office Hours**: M-F Before school and by appointment

**Course Description**

EL 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:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Must Have** | **Optional (don’t need)** |
| pencil or pen | calculator |
| highlighter | ruler |
| binder with 5 tabs | colored pencil |
| notebook or loose leaf paper | scissors (optional) |

Attendance: You should come to class each day. If you are verified absence, you are responsible for getting make-up work, and getting missed notes. You should get missing notes from team member. See teachers right away to get make up work.

Quizzes & Exams: Most of the time, there will be quizzes on Friday. 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. We 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.

**Topics of Study**

The following is a general list of the topics that we will cover in this course. Some topics will be covered more in-depth than others. Hopefully there is at least one topic covered that each of you will find interesting!

Biochemistry

Cell Structure and Function

Mitosis/Meiosis

Genetics

DNA and Protein Synthesis

Natural Selection and Adaptations

Ecology

**Grading Policy**

Grades for this class are determined on 20% of your **formative work** (homework/classwork/quiz) scores and 80% on your **summative work** (exam/grad standard) scores. Therefore, your success is determined on individual abilities and participation. There are no curves for any grades in this class.

Percentage Scale:

 A – 90% and above

 B – 80%

 C – 70%

 D – 60% (Do not drop below this!)

LATE WORK POLICY: Late work is accepted, however you will receive half credit on late assignments. It is important that you complete all formative assignments before the exam date to do well on the exams. After exams, late work will not be accepted.

QUIZ RETAKE POLICY: Quiz corrections are available.

**Course Expectations:**

We have specific expectations of each of you while you are taking this class. We expect the following:

**Be Prompt: be on time**

**Be Prepared: have your materials every day**

**Be Polite: be respectful**

**Be Productive: do your work**

**Respect for yourself** and your quality of work for the trimester. 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 trimester. 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. We will see your hand before we hear your voice and if we are helping someone else, we don’t want to be interrupted. Your turn will come soon…be patient.

**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. In order to be successful, we 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. We hope you enjoy the course!

I have read and understand the above information and agree to all of the classroom policies and procedures.

Student Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_