

Biology I Syllabus

2012 - 2013 Academic Year

Mr. Ison

Email: isons@duvalschools.org

Webpage: <http://mrison.blogspot.com> (Course Homepage)

Room: 253

Office Hours: By appointment.

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to provide students with the opportunity to investigate life sciences, biology, while developing decision-making and critical thinking skills. The course covers science as a process, biochemistry, ecology, cell energetics, genetics, biodiversity, and adaptation and survival.

Required Supplies

- ***Textbook:** *Holt McDougal Biology* (2012), Nowicki
- *3-ring binder (NOT a folder, preferably 1 ½ inches)
- *Notebook paper (**NOT SPIRALED**, preferably college ruled)
- *Blue or black ink pens (other colors are not accepted)
- *Sharpened pencils (Needs to say #2)
- *Colored pencils (**NOT** crayons)
- **Internet Access** (home, public library, etc.)
- **Access to a printer**

* - These items are required in class each day

STUDENTS MUST CARRY THEIR BOOK TO CLASS EACH DAY!

Grading:

A	100.0 - 90.00
B	89.99 - 80.00
C	79.99 - 70.00
D	69.99 - 60.00
F	59.99 - 0.00

Evaluation Methods:

Tests	50-60 pts ea
Quizzes and Labs	10-20 pts ea
Assignments	5-10 pts ea
Warm-ups	2-5 pts ea

Percentages are approximate and may vary as grades are calculated on a point scale.

Overall grading will be based on the 10 point per letter grade scale. Grades will not be rounded, meaning if an 89.99 is earned, it will result in a letter grade of a "B" being awarded. Grades will not be given, they must be earned. This is non-negotiable!

Tests, Quizzes, & Projects

TESTS: Tests will be given every few weeks. Each test will be announced at least two school days before it will be given. Tests will be worth 50-60 points. Students will have the opportunity to remediate each test only if the required remediation work is completed. Remediated test scores will replace the original test score.

QUIZZES: Quizzes will be given from time to time at the beginning or end of the class period and may or may not be announced ahead of time. It is the student's responsibility to keep up with the assigned reading and curriculum covered in the course. Quizzes will cover only what has been introduced in lessons, assignments, or assigned readings. Quizzes will be worth 10-20 points.

PROJECTS: Projects may be administered for each unit. A project rubric will be distributed covering all details of grading criteria and project requirements. Projects/Performance Tasks are required per Duval County Public School curriculum. Projects will be counted as test scores.

Warm-ups & Daily Assignments

WARM-UPS: A warm-up will be given at the start of each period. Each student is responsible to acquire any missed warm-ups from online (Mr. Ison's Homepage). Warm-ups may be checked daily or collected from time to time. It is the student's responsibility to keep up with their warm-ups and store non-collected warm-ups in their biology notebook. Warm-ups will be worth 2-5 points each.

DAILY ASSIGNMENTS: Assignments will consist of class work and homework. Class work and homework will be assigned daily. All class work is due by the end of the class period in which it was assigned. Homework is due by the beginning of the class the following class period. Work turned in after it is collected will be considered late whether it is completed during the same class period it was collected or not.

Assignments will be graded primarily on the correctness of the responses, not on completion. Assignments will be penalized if they are submitted late. Assignments will not be accepted more than a week after the due date.

Assignments will be graded based on the following scale:

% Correct	On Time	Late
100	10	8
80 - 99	8	6
60 - 79	6	NC
0 - 59	NC	NC

NC - No Credit

The grading scale above is based on the fact that students have a textbook and notes to assist them in completing homework and class work assignments.

Labs

Due to the nature of experiments, a safety contract must be signed by the student and parent before participation in hands-on laboratory exercises. It is the student's responsibility to attain all signatures and return the safety contract. Failure to return the signed safety contract does not constitute exemption in regards to the lab grade, a zero will be recorded in this instance. Labs will be worth 10-20 points.

Additional Information

ATTENDANCE: Attendance has a tremendous impact on student achievement. Research indicates that students with good attendance habits make higher grades. It is the responsibility of students/parents to be aware of all absences and to verify all absences in the event of any questions.

MAKE-UP POLICY: Students missing class should check the course homepage (<http://mrison.blogspot.com>). Lesson Plans are posted on the course website. If the work is not posted please email the instructor. This provides proof that you have requested make-up work from the instructor, if it is not posted.

It is the student's responsibility to acquire missing notes from classmates or write their own notes from the assigned section in the textbook using reading and note taking skills taught in class. The instructor will not provide notes.

Students missing tests, quizzes, or labs must make up the test within five (5) school days from which it was given. It is the student's responsibility to schedule a make-up time for any missed test, quiz, or lab. Failure to do so will result in a permanent zero.

Assignments that were due the previous class that was missed must be turned in at the beginning of class upon the students return to school. Work that is not turned in at the beginning of class following the student's return will be deemed as late.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: All tests, papers, and quizzes should reflect the work of the individual student. **PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.** Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a zero for the assignment and additional academic penalties may be taken against the individual. It will be the instructor's judgment to whether plagiarism or cheating penalties are applied.

LEARNING RECOVERY: Grade recovery will be administered in accordance to Duval County Public School policy. Grade recovery must be successfully completed for the student's grade to be changed. Grade recovery will be administered through Compass Odyssey.

ASSIGNMENT CLARITY: Due to legibility issues with assignments the following requirements are mandatory for all assignments to be graded. All assignments have to be labeled with the proper assignment heading; this is provided by the instructor for all assignments. Students are also required to head their papers in the upper right-hand corner with their full name (first and last), date, and period. If the instructor cannot read the name he cannot assign the grade to the proper student. Assignments turned in that are illegible will not be graded, and no credit will be given. It is the responsibility of all students to provide legible work for grading or the student has failed to demonstrate knowledge of the subject.

EXTRA CREDIT: There will be no extra credit opportunities in the course.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR: Students are responsible for adhering to the student code of conduct. In addition, students are expected to be respectful to peers, teachers, administrators, and property. Failure to maintain proper conduct will result in parent contact, in-class time-out, out-of-class time-out, a referral, or a behavioral contract dependent of the severity of the offense. The instructor also reserves the right to isolate any student causing excessive classroom disruption and assigning individual instruction and assignments at a minimum of equal to that of the other students in the class. This shall be at the instructor's professional judgment. Classroom Policies and Procedures can be found on the course homepage (<http://mrison.blogspot.com>).

COMPUTER AND INTERNET USE: Students using any computer must remain on sites approved by the instructor. Students found browsing the web on unapproved sites will have internet and computer privileges revoked or suspended and possibly receive additional consequences from the school.

PROGRESS REPORTS: Grades will be available online through My Grade Portal. Access to My Grade Portal is available to both students and parents. If students or parents have difficulty with accessing My Grade Portal please contact the school's curriculum office. Grades are generally posted within a week after the assignment was submitted. When the instructor publishes grades to Oncourse, Duval County Public School's online grading system (grade book), the grade will be visible to parents and students through My Grade Portal. Grades are continuously being updated throughout the quarter and may fluctuate day-to-day.

SYLLABUS AMENDMENTS: The instructor reserves the right to amend the syllabus at any time to improve the overall structure and direction of the course. Amendments to the syllabus will not be retroactive and will have a minimum of a two school day advanced notice. Amendments to the syllabus will be made available to the students in class and on Mr. Ison's Homepage (<http://mrison.blogspot.com>).

Course Timeline

The following timeline is an estimate of where the class should be throughout the course. Material may be added or removed throughout to adjust so that all required curriculum is covered.

- FIRST SEMESTER -	
Unit 1 - Biochemistry (11 Class Periods)	
This unit will cover the concepts of properties of water, organic molecules, and reactions and enzymes.	
Unit 2 - Cells, Specialization, and Cellular Energy (18 Class Periods)	
This unit will cover the concepts of the cell membrane, cell communication and bacteria signaling, plant anatomy, photosynthesis, cellular respiration, factors affecting blood flow, cell growth and division, and the human immune system.	
Unit 3 - Genetics (16 Class Periods)	
This unit will cover the concepts of Mendelian genetics, human reproduction and development, human inheritance, DNA, RNA, protein synthesis, and genetic technology.	
- SECOND SEMESTER -	
Unit 4 - Evolutionary Biology (16 Class Periods)	
This unit will cover the concepts of the scientific theory of evolution, population evolution, hominid evolution, parts of the brain, the history of life, and classification.	
Unit 5 - Ecology (18 Class Periods)	
This unit will cover the concepts of biogeochemical cycles, interdependence in the environment, and human impact on the environment.	

Remember, this is an estimated course outline. To keep fully informed of where the class is throughout the course check with the information posted on Mr. Ison's Homepage (<http://mrison.blogspot.com>).

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Course Syllabus Contract

I have reviewed Mr. Ison's Biology I course syllabus for the 2012 - 2013 academic school year, fully understand what I have read, and commit to give my best effort to fulfilling the requirements of this course. I also understand that what are written in this syllabus are the policies and procedures of this course and that the information written herein is non-negotiable.

Student name (printed): _____

Student name (signed): _____ Date: _____

I have reviewed Mr. Ison's Biology I course syllabus for the 2012 - 2013 academic school year, fully understand what I have read, and commit to ensuring the best effort of my child to fulfilling the requirements of this course. I also understand that what are written in this syllabus are the policies and procedures of this course and that the information written herein is non-negotiable.

Parent name (printed): _____

Parent name (signed): _____ Date: _____

Parent's Email Address _____

Disclaimer: Refusal to sign this contract does not release the student from following this course syllabus. This contract's sole intent is to ensure that each parent and student has taken the effort to inform oneself of the policies and procedures of this course. It is the parents' responsibility to stay informed of the progress of their student in this course.

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Acknowledgement of Syllabus Receipt

I have received Mr. Ison's Biology I course syllabus for the 2012 - 2013 academic school year and take responsibility to inform myself and my parents of all that is written in it. I understand that what are written in this syllabus are the policies and procedures of this course and that the information written therein is non-negotiable.

Student name (printed): _____

Student name (signed): _____ Date: _____