

Course Syllabus – 2014-2015

Course Title: Biology

Instructor: Mr. Kevin Fairhurst










Contact: 480.987.5973 ext: 4643
Room B103
kfairhurst@qcusd.org
Available for tutoring during Achievement Hour or from 2-3pm on Tue. and Thu.

Textbook: Biggs, Alton, et al. *Biology*. Columbus, OH: McGraw-Hill Education, 2012.
You will be given instructions for how to access the electronic version of the textbook using your web-enabled device (computer, tablet, smartphone, et cetera).

Materials: 1" (or thicker) 3-ring binder (may be used for multiple subjects/classes)
Lined notebook paper
Graph Paper
Spiral notebook (for note taking)
Composition notebook (for lab write-ups)
Pens (blue or black ink preferred)
Pencils (#2 hardness)

Course Competencies/Objectives:

This course in biology is taught using the Arizona Department of Education state standards for high school science. The standards are summarized below:

-  Understand the role of the cell and cellular processes.
-  Understand the molecular basis of heredity and resulting genetic diversity.
-  Analyze the relationships among various organisms and their environment.
-  Understand the scientific principles and processes involved in biological evolution.
-  Understand the organization of living systems, and the role of energy within those systems.
-  Formulate predictions, questions or hypotheses based on observations.
-  Design and conduct controlled investigations.
-  Evaluate experimental design, analyze data to explain results and propose further investigations.
-  Identify individual, cultural, and technological contributions to scientific knowledge.

Course Description: Biology is a lab based course which will address the following topics: ecology, biochemistry, cellular structure and function, cellular energy and reproduction, human inheritance, genetics and molecular genetics, natural selection, evolution, phylogeny and taxonomy, bacteria and viruses along with an introduction to plants and animals. Students will be expected to learn and demonstrate basic laboratory techniques and safety procedures. Students will also be exposed to critical reading and analysis along with technical writing skills. Some lab activities may require dissection.

Course Overview:

Semester 1: Quarter 1

Unit 1: Intro to Biology
Unit 2: Chemistry of Life
Unit 3: Cell Structure and Function
Unit 4: Cellular Energy

Semester 1: Quarter 2

Unit 5: Cell Cycle
Unit 6: Genetics
Unit 7: Biotechnology
Unit 8: Evolution

Semester 2: Quarter 3

Unit 9: Classification of Organisms
Unit 10: Ecology
Unit 11: Viruses & Prokaryotes

Semester 2: Quarter 4

Unit 12: Protists & Fungi
Unit 13: Plants
Unit 14: Animals (including Frog Dissection)
Unit 15: Human Body Systems

Grading System: A=100-90%, B=89-80%, C=79-70%, D=69-65%, D-=64-60%, F=59-0%

Grades will be earned from points accumulated during each semester from the following categories:

Assignments - 35%

Assessments - 45%

Final Exam - 20%

- Tests require a minimum score of 70% or remediation is required. Your final grade will be greatly benefited by daily, on time, attendance and a good attitude and effort. Grades are updates weekly in Synergy.
- Assignments may be any of the following: homework, classwork, notebook checks, etc. Assessments may be any of the following: tests, formative assessments, reading quizzes, lab write-ups, projects, etc.

Attendance is very important to your success. The information given in class, lab time, and group interactions is very difficult to make up. Every effort should be made to be in class on time each day. However, should you be absent for any reason, it is your responsibility to schedule the date and time with me on which you will make up missed assignments. Please refer to the "Make Up Work" and "Late Work Policy" below.

Make Up Work Students who have EXCUSED absences have 1 extra day for each day absent to complete make up assignments.

Late Work Policy Students will have up until the unit assessment to turn in any late assignments for 50% of the credit earned. If the students fail to turn in those assignments by set date, then it will remain a zero in Synergy. Please check the Synergy calendar to see when assignments, tests/quizzes, and projects are scheduled.

Classroom Management:

District guidelines for student behavior and QCHS's code of conduct form the basis for our experiences together. In addition to these standards I expect the following:

- Please do not talk during instruction
- Know the class procedures
- Follow class routines
- Be respectful of yourself and others
- Accept responsibility for your choices

The best discipline is self-discipline. At this point in your life you are capable of exercising this quality. I am not a baby sitter, nor should you require one. You are not here to be entertained; you are here to learn - for your own sake. Should issues arise, consequences should be understood and accepted.

Consequences:

1st Step - A verbal warning.

2nd Step - A second verbal warning, parent contact via phone and/or email.

3rd Step - A written referral and parent contact.

4th Step - Administrative referral and parent contact

Please remember the following policies apply to all students and classrooms at Queen Creek High School:

- 1) Electronic devices are not to be used for personal use while classes are actively in session.
- 2) Hats, hoods, sunglasses are not to be worn indoors.
- 3) Food and drinks (except water) are not permitted in the classrooms.
- 4) Your Student ID must be carried at all times.
- 5) The school dress code will be enforced daily.

Return this page to your teacher by the following date: _____

STUDENT AND PARENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Students:

Your signature below represents that you have read and that you understand the classroom policies and procedures statement for this course and understand the consequences if you choose not to comply with them. You also know that if you have a problem or need help to be successful in this class, you will see your teacher before or after school or during Achievement Hour.

Student Name (please print legibly)

Student Signature

Date

Student Technology Agreement:

I will abide by the QCUSD technology agreement given to me at the beginning of the school year.

Student Signature

Parents:

As a parent, you acknowledge the above and also understand that your son or daughter needs your full support and guidance in school attendance, completion of assignments, and maintenance of good health through nutrition, rest, and emotional support. Parents, please also note that there may be a time when a film will be shown in class. All films shown are relevant to course content. Your signature here acknowledges your permission to show your child films with ratings of "G" only. Any film with a different rating will be preceded with a separate parental permission form.

Parent Name (please print legibly)

Parent Signature

Date

Parents:

Physical textbooks will not be checked out to students. Instead students will receive instructions on how to access the electronic textbook on the Internet. QCHS fully understands that some students may not have regular access to the Internet at home for various reasons. For these students, and only these students, a select number of physical textbooks have been purchased to be checked out. Please circle your answer to the following question and sign your name acknowledging your choice.

Does your child have daily access to the Internet at home? YES or NO

Parent Signature