Pre-AP Biology

Santa Fe High School

2020-2021

Instructor: Ben Wheatman

Room: C 204

Phone: (409) 927-3247

Email: Benjamin.wheatman@sfisd.org

Tutorials: After School Tuesdays & Thursdays from 2:40 – 3:15 pm or By Appointment

**Course Description:**

This is an introductory level biology course designed to give students a familiarity with the major concepts, principles, and processes of biology. Topics that will be covered are outlined below and are aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills to best prepare students to be successful on the End of Course Exam, broaden students’ understanding of how biological principles apply to everyday life and generate curiosity, and provide a foundation for further science study. This class will reinforce biology concepts with lab activities as well as investigative and inquiry based learning experiences. Students will also learn how to think critically and evaluate questions during group and individual research projects.

**Online Synchronous Learning:**

Online synchronous learning provides students with live lessons with the teacher and classmates, opportunities for group work, and includes expectations of responsible behavior as if students were physically in the classroom. Online synchronous learning in SFISD is not:

Self-paced

Independent study

Easier or less time than face-to-face courses

Online synchronous learning is available to lower your risk of contracting illness from others at school. Students physically in class will be doing the same exact work as those online. A web camera in the room facing the teacher will allow for online students to attend class virtually along with their peers sitting in the classroom. For those students attending class in person, masks must be worn in C204 at all times.

**Required Materials:**

Computer (for all learners)

Internet (for all learners)

Face mask (for face-to-face learners)

**Wish List for Face-to-Face Learners:**

Hand sanitizer

Kleenex

Paper towels

Liquid antibacterial soap

**Classroom Expectations**:

1. Be in your seat when the bell rings, logged in to Canvas, and work on your warm up.
2. Bring your materials and a writing utensil to class.
3. Be polite and respectful of yourself and others.
4. **No** cell phones should be out during class.
5. Clean up after yourself.
6. Absolutely no eating or drinking in class. This includes gum; water is allowed at the student’s desk.

**I also expect you to follow all school rules and policies in addition to the ones I outlined above.**

**Consequences**:

1st: Verbal Warning & Redirect

2nd: Teacher/Student Conference (in hallway during class or after class)

3rd: Teacher Detention & Parent Contact

4th: Office Referral

**Please keep in mind that consequences depend on the severity of the action.**

**Leaving Class:**

SFHS follows a 10/10 rule. No students will be allowed to leave the room the first or last 10 minutes of class or during direct instruction. You must sign out on the pass and leave your phone in the room. When you return you must write the time you came back to class, place the pass back in its designated location, and retrieve your phone.

**Topics of Course:**

Introduction to Inquiry

Ecological Principles

Evolutionary Principles

Cellular Processes

Genetics

Taxonomy

Plant Systems

Animal Systems

**Grades:**

Grading is as per the school grading scale. I do reserve the right to give unannounced quizzes. Grades in my class will be weighted, meaning that some assignments are worth more than others. The grading scale is as follows:

**9 weeks grading percentages:**

Daily Assignments:  10%
Minor assignments: 30%
Major Assignments:  60%

**Semester Percentages:**1st nine weeks:   40%
2nd nine weeks:  40%
Semester exam:  20%

Daily assignments - includes classwork, participation, and homework.

Minor assignments - includes small projects, quizzes, labs, and major project checkpoints.

Major assignments – includes tests, term papers, major projects, and some labs.

**Extra Credit:**

Pre-Ap Biology is a college preparatory class and as such there will be very few opportunities for extra credit. I expect you to maintain a satisfactory grade without extra credit so please do not ask.

**Unit Work:**

For each unit you will receive a selection of documents/assignments in Canvas. It will include the work we will study for that unit. Labs and Daily Assignments are expected to be completed when assigned. Daily checks will be made and weekly grades will be given. All assignments will be turned in on or before the due date via Canvas.

**Labs:**

Laboratory experimentation and exploration are a large part of this course. It is vital that the students follow all laboratory procedures and safety rules/guidelines. Failure to comply with behavior expectations can result in removal from the lab activities and complete bookwork instead. A safety contract will be distributed via Canvas and filled out by the student and the parent/guardian. These documents will be kept on file and are needed before a student can participate in any labs. Labs missed due to excused absences need to be made up during an agreed upon time with the teacher. You **cannot** borrow data. It is the student’s responsibility to be sure these labs are made up and will be at the teacher’s convenience.

**Exams:**

Exams will be over material we cover in class, supplemental material you are asked to read, and material covered in handouts, labs, or other activities. The test will range from multiple choice to essay questions. Quizzes may be given at any time covering assigned reading, previous lectures, homework, or lab procedures. Comprehensive final exams will be given each semester. Students should study daily to be prepared for exams and quizzes. ***The teacher reserves the right to administer a different make-up exam and/or quiz.***

**Make-Up Work:**

Students will be permitted to make up assignments and tests after an absence. The number of days allowed for make-up work to be completed will be equal to the number of times a class was missed. It is the **student’s** responsibility to ask for their missing assignments and to turn in their work within the allowable time frame. If a student has a question about an assignment or what they need to do, he or she need to attend after school tutorials.

**Missing / Late Work:**

When work is not turned in with the rest of class, the grade will be recorded as “missing and zero” in the grade book. Students will have 3 days to turn in the assignment via Canvas. If no assignment is turned in within 3 days of the due date, the grade will remain a zero. If the assignment is turned in within 3 days of the due date, the grade will be entered as what the student **earned minus 25 late points**.

**Re-testing & Test Corrections:**

Only one retest will be allowed per nine weeks with a maximum grade of 70%. The student will have until the administration of the next exam or 10 school days to retest during tutorial time. This only applies to unit tests, not 9 weeks exams or semester tests. With test corrections, students will earn half of the points lost on their exam grade up to a grade of 70%. Test corrections must be completed in after school tutorials. Students have 5 school days after the original test grade is posted to complete test corrections.

**Technology:**

Students will need to have access to their laptop in school if attending in person or at their location if attending class virtually. Students will have access to their biology textbook online. Students will also be expected to use Canvas. Their username is their student email address and their password is their 8-digit birthday. Canvas is where they will access and submit all assignments to.

**Tutoring:**

I want each of you to have a successful year! Toward that end, I am available for tutoring after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If these times will not work for you, we can make other arrangements. Please, do not hesitate to ask for assistance!

**Signature Page:**

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding the information in this syllabus. My goal is to equip each student with the tools needed to be successful in this course and beyond. **ONLY** the Signature Page should be signed and returned by August 20th, 2020.

**Student: Please initial the following statements.**

 **I will follow the rules listed above and behave properly at all times.**

 **I understand the policy for absent and late work.**

Sincerely,

Benjamin Wheatman

Pre AP Biology

Phone: 409-927-3247

Email: Benjamin.wheatman@sfisd.org

***By signing below, both student and parent/guardian are verifying they have received and read the syllabus and understand its contents.***

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**Printed Parent/Guardian Name Parent/Guardian Signature Date**

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**Printed Student Name Student Signature Date**