



Biology I Syllabus

Mrs. Mindy Casteel
Central High School
2017-2018



Email: mcasteel@mcmminnschools.com Room: 10

Planning Time: 8:20-9:10

School Website: www.mcminncentral.com

Click News & Events → School Staff → Mindy Casteel, for my information, syllabus and PowerPoint Presentations.

Supplies

Notebook paper

Pencils

Color Pencils, pens, or markers

Highlighters

Paper folder or small binder

Bring in **at least** 1 of the following:

Kleenex

Hand Sanitizer

Paper Towels

Clorox Wipes

Textbook: *Biology*. Holt, Rinehart, and Winston

Course Description:

Biology is devoted to the study of living things and their processes. Throughout the year this course provides an opportunity for students to develop scientific process skills, laboratory techniques, and an understanding of the fundamental principles of living organisms. Students will explore biological science as a process, cell structure and function, genetics and heredity, evolution and classification, diversity of living organisms and their ecological roles, and an introduction to animal structure and function. An end of course test (EOC) will be administered in May, which covers objectives for both semesters.

Objectives/Goals:

- Teach students practical scientific skills, which they can use to investigate, study and explain the world around them.
- Give students a deeper understanding of the how biology impacts their daily lives.
- For each student to achieve the TNReady Standards for High School Biology.
- To encourage the spirit of scientific investigation and with it the attitudes of accuracy in thought and work.

Rules:

1. Be Reasonable.

- Talk at reasonable levels.
- Follow directions the first time they are given.
- Follow all procedures and policies as outlined in the Central High School and McMinn County Schools handbooks.

2. Be Respectful.

- To Me
 - Sit quietly while I am talking.
- To visitors
- To my stuff
- To school property
 - Take care of tables and chairs.
 - Gum chewing is not allowed.
 - Keep the hallways and classroom walls clean.
- To your classmates
 - Keep your hands, feet and objects to yourself.
 - Do not hinder another student from learning.

3. Be Responsible.

- Complete assigned work on time and turn it in at the beginning of class.

4. Be Reliable.

- Do your Best: Make an Effort, NOT an Excuse.
- No cheating! At any point if I feel that a student's work has been compromised or have physically caught a student in the act of cheating, the student(s) involved will receive a zero for that assignment.

5. Be Ready.

- Bring ALL books and materials to class and take them with you when you leave.
- Complete all assigned homework on time.

6. Be a Role Model.

- Absolutely NO BULLYING.

CODE OF CONDUCT

As team members in Biology class at Central High School, we all expect and insist upon high standards of performance and behavior from each other. We will treat each other with respect and dignity, and live up to our core values at all times. Some basic rules of conduct and corrective actions are necessary to ensure that these standards are met. A participation grade will be given at the middle and end of each nine weeks based on student compliance with the following behaviors. Each student will begin the term with a 100 and points will be deducted based on the following criteria. Corrective action steps will also be taken.

The following are **Category 1** violations, which, if violated will result in a deduction of 2 points per offense.

1. Unsatisfactory participation, lack of initiative, poor performance, or sleeping in class.
2. Late work.
3. Class interruptions to include talking without permission and blurting-out.
4. Out of assigned area/Seat
5. Food/drink Violations
6. Tardy to class
7. Packing up Early/Leaving Trash
8. Complaining or Arguing
9. Being unprepared

The following are **Category 2** violations, which, if violated will result in a deduction of 5 points per offense.

1. Horseplay
2. Indecent/Offensive Language or Behavior
3. Disrespecting Teacher/Student
4. Phone Violation
5. Disregard of Safety Procedures
6. Vandalism
7. Dress Code
8. Cheating (will also result in a zero)
9. Defiance/Insubordination

The following are **Category 3** violations, which, if violated will result in a deduction of 10 points per offense and will result in an automatic office referral.

1. Fighting
2. Controlled substances
3. Property Damage
4. Harassment/bullying
5. Skipping Class
6. Skipping Detention

Corrective action(s) will result when the following grade has been reached:

- 1st Step-90: Parent Contact
- 2nd Step-80: Parent Contact +Teacher detention
- 3rd Step-70: Parent Contact +Teacher detention + Administrative Conference

SEVERE CLAUSE: Teacher discretion can be used to automatically send a student to the office.

Classroom Procedures:

- Entering the Room
 - You should be in your assigned seat when the bell rings and immediately begin working on the bell ringer.
 - Follow written directions after you complete the bell ringer.
 - Aisle ways must be clear. (Backpacks, books, and purses under tables)
 - No bags on your desk. I will think that you are using your cell phone or possibly cheating.
- Cell Phones
 - Students *MAY* occasionally be allowed to use cell phones for research purposes during class or individual practice time with teacher permission. During that time, students will not be allowed to text, use any form of social media, take pictures, make phone calls, play games, etc. Any misuse will lead to confiscation of the device and parents will be required to pick it up in the office.
- Paper Heading
 - On each page, in the upper right corner: Full Name, Date, Period
- Turning in Papers
 - Quietly turn your assignment into your classes basket.
 - For students who do not have the assigned homework:
 - Fill out a Post-it note with the required information, and stick it onto the late work board.
 - When you complete the assignment, find your sticky note on the "late work" board and place it on your assignment. Turn the assignment into the late work basket.
- Attendance Policy
 - Good Attendance is required. In the event of an absence, you are responsible for all material presented in class, including homework assignments, quizzes, and tests. It is your responsibility to turn in make-up work. When you know that you will be absent, please see me ahead of time to get the work that you will miss.
- After an Absence
 - See posted agenda to copy assignments.
 - Retrieve any handouts from the teacher and/or the make-up work board and visit teacher website for notes/vocab missed.
 - Turn in any assignments within 3 days from absence.
- Classroom Discussions
 - PLEASE participate.
 - I want to hear what you have to say.
 - Make all questions and comments relevant to the current discussion.
 - If your question is off the topic, write it down and ask later.

- **Grading Policy**
 - You can check the grade portal to track your progress at any time.
 - An "0" represents a missing assignment and calculates as a zero until it is turned in.
 - Grading scale: A=100-93; B=92-85; C=84-76; D=75-70; F= below 69
 - Grade cards will be sent home every nine weeks and mid-terms every 4½ weeks. Both must be signed and returned.
 - Students will be graded on different scales with every assignment. Therefore, to calculate a grade, add total earned points and divide by total possible points. Tests do not count any more than daily work. I feel that a student's performance should not be solely dedicated to how well they can take a test. The majority of grades will be taken from daily work.
 - Late points will be deducted for assignments not turned in on time.
- **Graded work**
 - I will return assignments to you after I grade them, but I will take them up again and keep them until the end of each nine weeks.
- **Moving Around the Room**
 - You must ask permission during activities and lecture.
 - If we are working on individual practice, you may get up to retrieve any supplies that you may need.
 - Do not ask to get up during a classroom discussion unless it is an emergency.
 - Throw away trash before or after class.
 - Sharpen pencils at the beginning of class.
- **Leaving the Room**
 - If you leave the room for any reason, you must ask for permission, and take the pass. Use the restroom in between classes.
- **Special Guests**
 - Anytime a guest is present, I expect you to be on your very best behavior.
 - If a substitute writes your name down, it is an automatic detention.
- **Intercom Announcements**
 - Absolutely no talking when announcements are made over the intercom.
- **Class Dismissal**
 - Do not start packing up or standing up prior to teacher dismissal.
 - All trash must be picked up off the floor and chairs should be pushed in before you are allowed to leave the room.
 - Wait until the teacher finishes and officially dismisses you.

Assessments:

- **Chapter Notebooks:** Each piece of the notebook is based off of successful strategies or studies that have been proven to improve student retention. Although the notebooks are challenging at first, the process gets easier as we go throughout the year. Chapter notebooks are a huge percentage of a student's grade because many components of class are included in this one grade and it is the result of weeks of classwork and homework. A student may have homework if they do not finish parts of the notebook in class. After we complete a section from the textbook, if a student doesn't finish the notes or vocabulary, I suggest that they finish it that night for homework, although it will not be due until the day that we take the chapter test. It is vitally important that the students pace themselves and do not put off completing assignments until the last minute or it will pile up. **Notebooks will ALWAYS be due on test days.**
- **Constructed response assignment (CRA):** Towards the end of the chapter, students may be given a writing prompt that relates to the chapter standard. They may use their notes, books, and resources to answer the prompt. Rubrics will be included on the bottom of the assignment. They are out of 100 points and should include proper English mechanics.
- **Labs:** Not every chapter will have a lab or activity, but when labs are assigned students may work in groups to complete a task. Students will be expected to communicate their findings via lab report, class discussion, and/ follow-up assignments. Labs will be graded.
- **Chapter test:** Tests may come from anything that we cover in the chapter including: the textbook, notes, discussions, videos, or labs. Each question is worth 4 points, for a total of 200 points. After students complete their test and turn them in, they should work on the next chapter's preview page.
- **Quizzes:** occur during the course of unit work and are designed to determine if the student is grasping the concept and to determine if the learner is ready to end the unit and move to another. They will be worth 50 points.
- **Homework:** used to reinforce classwork and will count as a grade. Students are expected to complete homework on time in order for it to assist in understanding concepts of biology.
- **Projects:** may be assigned throughout the year. Each project will include a handout of details, expectations, and grading.
- **Semester Examinations:** cumulative in content, and counts as 20% of the first semester grade. A student can be exempt if he/she has missed less than 3 days of my class. Every 3 tardies count as an absence.
- **End of Course Test:** occurs during the second semester and will count as 25% of the second semester grade. I cannot stress enough how worthwhile it is for the student to put forth their best effort on both the course and the test.

Pacing

Semester 1	Semester 2
Chapter 4: Cell Structure and Function	Chapter 17: Classification
Chapter 5: Homeostasis and Cell Transport	Chapter 18: Ecology
Chapter 10: DNA, RNA, and Protein Synthesis	Chapter 19, Chapter 16: Population Genetics
Chapter 8: Cell Reproduction	Chapter 20: Community Ecology & Ecosystems
Ch. 9, Ch. 12, Ch. 13: Genetics	Chapter 2: Chemistry
Ch. 1, Ch. 14, Ch. 15: Introduction/History	Ch. 3, Ch. 6, Ch. 7: Biochemistry and Processes
Semester Review	EOC Review
	Dissection/Organ Systems

"I truly believe in your potential and I know that you have the ability to succeed!

Have an Awesome Year! Mrs. Casteel

Please sign and return this page to Mrs. Casteel for your first grade. Keep the other pages of the syllabus at the front of your Biology notebook. Also, please obtain necessary classroom supplies as soon as possible.

I have read the class syllabus and agree to follow the rules and procedures for Mrs. Casteel's Class.

_____	_____	_____
Student Printed Name	period	Parent Printed Name
_____	_____	_____
Student Signature	date	Parent Signature

*Please check the best way to contact you about your child's progress, grades, behavior, etc.

____Email_____

____Phone_____

____Address_____