

**Biology: Syllabus**  
**Instructor: Mr. Shannon**



**Contact Information**

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**General Course Description**

This course begins with a consideration of the living condition and discussion of the unique properties of living organisms that set life apart from the non-living. It continues with molecular and cellular biology, from which it moves logically into reproduction and genetics. An understanding of genetics gives meaning to organized variation, evolution and methods of scientific classification units dealing with microbiology and plant and animal phylum. This course is designed for the college-bound student. Students should expect a demanding daily homework load as well as projects, quizzes, tests, and laboratory write-ups. A high level of understanding in problem solving and the scientific methods is necessary for success in this course.

**Daily Class Materials Needed**

*Student Planner	*Modern Biology textbook	*3 Ring Binder/Folder
*Notebook	*Pen/Pencil	*Calculator

**Daily Requirements:**

All students will be required to keep a 3-Ring Binder with all their classroom materials in the binder. This binder will hold the student's Vocabulary Word List, Notes, Classroom Assignments and Activities, Labs, Quizzes, and Reviews. This notebook will be graded at the end of every chapter.

**General Routines and Procedures**

**1. BE ON TIME AND PREPARED FOR LEARNING**

**\*Respect for Others (Teachers, Students, and Community)**

*-Ways to Show Respect to Others:*

1. Make good eye contact when communicating with others

2. **BE ON TIME!**

Punctuality is vital in today's world. Virtually any job you may have will require you to be on time and ready to work. You must be in your seat when the bell rings. **If you are late, you must have a pass from the office or the teacher who detained you or you will be counted tardy.** You will receive one free tardy, every subsequent tardy will result in a problem solving session with Mr. Shannon.

3. Listen!

**2. COMPLETE ASSIGNED TASKS ON TIME**

**\*Make Hard Work Your Passion**

-The simplest way that an individual can achieve a higher degree of success in any endeavor is simple: "I'm going to outwork you!"

-The harder you work, the harder it is to surrender to any challenge in life....PERIOD!

We do a significant amount of cooperative/group learning. You are expected to contribute to your group and work with others. Failure to do so will result in your removal from groups and subsequent individual work.

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### **Bell Work**

Everyday at the beginning of class, you will be expected to do bell work. The bell work will consist of Lateral/Critical Thinking Problems. You will have the first 5 minutes of class to write down the question to be answered for that day. All bell work must be turned into Mr. Shannon by 3:45PM the same day to receive credit. Bell work is worth 5 points each day.

"It is our attitude at the beginning of a difficult task which, more than anything else, will affect it's successful outcome."

**-William James**

### **3. DEMONSTRATE ACADEMIC PROFICIENCY**

**Cheating is not tolerated in this class.** Any student caught cheating will receive an automatic office referral. In addition, the student will be required to make-up the assignment and may receive a maximum of 50% on the make-up assignment. Cheating is defined as passing off another's work as your own. This includes copying or stealing answers, whether it be daily work or assessments. (Reminder: Life is full of choices....)

"Good habits result from resisting temptation." **Indian Proverb**

### **Homework**

Expect to see homework on a nightly basis throughout the year. Homework will usually involve reading material from the text and answering problems associated with lab work, activities, and in-class discussions. It will also include some project work, laboratory reports, and study for examinations. Each homework assignment carries a due date or deadline. The deadlines in this course are very reasonable and **I expect that you will put forth effort daily in this class to complete these assignments.**

If you do not turn in an assignment on time, the following consequence & options will be given to make-up the assignment.

### **Options & Consequence**

1. If an assignment is not completed on time the student will have until the end of the day to turn it in for a late grade (60%). If it is not turned in before school starts on the following day a detention with Mr. Shannon will be assigned, until the assignment is completed. All late assignments will be at 60% credit. If the assignment is not turned in the next day, a Problem Solving will result and the WEBSS process will be implemented.

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then, is not an act, but a habit."

**Aristotle**

### **Academic Assistance**

Due to extracurricular responsibilities, if students are in need of academic assistance in Mr. Shannon's classes, the following times will be set aside for academic assistance:

1. Before School (7:30 - 8:15 PM)
2. Home Room
3. Mr. Shannon's Plan Period

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### **Class Absences**

\*If a student misses class due to a school related event, the student is responsible for getting their assignments ahead of time and making sure that they are turned in and completed before they leave.

\*If a student misses class due to illness or an non-school related absence, that student will have one day to make up their work for each day they are gone. The materials can be found in the vertical paper holders.

### **Class Participation**

When you are in class, I expect you to be ready to learn. I expect each of you to be an active participant in your learning. While I am speaking, you should be actively listening. If you have a question raise your hand, and I'll be happy to try and answer it. When I ask questions, I will either call on students to answer or ask for volunteers, so be ready. There will be days when you will be graded on how well you participate in the class.

"Not to know is bad, not to wish to know is worse."

### **Nigerian Proverb**

### **Grading Policy**

For each chapter or unit that is learned during the year, we will have four basic grades:

1. Homework (10-50 pts)
2. Lab Assignments (10 - 50 pts)
3. Section/Unit Quizzes (10 - 50pts)
4. Chapter Assessment (150 - 300 pts)

You will also have projects assigned during the semester, which will be graded using a rubric and will be worth between 100 - 300 pts.

Your quarter final assessments will be worth **20%** of your semester grade.

### **Grading Scale**

A+ 98-100	B+ 92-90	C+ 82-84	D+ 75-76
A 95-97	B 88-89	C 79-81	D 73-74
A- 93-94	B- 85-87	C- 77-78	D- 70-72

### **Extra Credit**

You will have the opportunity to do some extra credit with every chapter. It can be a great asset to help you improve your grade. It is meant as a tool to help you better understand the material and help you prepare for tests. Therefore, I will only accept it, if turned in before the tests. Also, it should not be done in place of your regular homework, instead it is meant as a supplement. You may do a maximum of 20 points of extra credit per chapter.

Extra Credit is done on the following website associated with the text book:

<http://www.go.hrw.com>

Once at the home page type in the keyword: HM2 HOME

\*More information on the extra credit will be given at a later date.

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### **Daily Behavioral Expectations**

#### **1. USE WORK TIME APPROPRIATELY**

##### ***\*Discipline Yourself So No One Else Has To***

-Discipline is the internal mechanism that self-motivates you! It is essential to success, whether individually or in a group.

-To accomplish anything of real quality requires discipline and having the patience to do things right, the first time.

-Self discipline is a matter of how hard you are willing to work WHEN NO ONE IS WATCHING!

"Disciplining yourself to do what you know is right and important, although difficult, is the high road to pride, self-esteem, and personal satisfaction. "

**Brian Tracy**

#### **2. DEMONSTRATE RESPECT FOR PEOPLE AND PROPERTY**

##### ***\*Respect Yourself & Others***

###### **-Respect for Yourself**

*-Ways to Develop Self Respect:*

1. Take responsibility for your actions! (See Below)
2. Be true to yourself!
3. Be willing to laugh at yourself!

###### **-Respect for Your School and School Property**

*-Ways to Show Respect for School Property*

1. ASK FIRST to borrow an item (PLEASE!)
2. Return all items to their proper locations when you are done! ( THANK YOU!)
3. Take responsibility for materials in your possession!

"I must respect the opinions of others even if I disagree with them."

**Herbert Henry Lehman**

"I never could have done what I have done without the habits of punctuality, order, and diligence, without the determination to concentrate myself on one subject at a time."

**Charles Dickens**

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### **3. RESPOND APPROPRIATELY TO MR. SHANNON'S DIRECTIVES**

#### **\* Take Full Responsibility**

**-Life is full of CHOICES.....Each choice bears a consequence!**

-If you make a positive choice, enjoy the rewards!

-If you make a negative choice, accept the consequences!

(DO NOT MAKE EXCUSES!)

-Responsibility is a constant state of being that evolves!

**-We cannot pick and choose the days that we wish to be responsible!**

-RESPONSIBILITY = ACCOUNTABILITY = OWNERSHIP

-Ways to Become More Responsible:

1. Assume responsibility for a situation and force yourself to cope with it
2. Make yourself accountable for the "little things" each day.  
These are the things that develop character!
3. DO NOT MAKE EXCUSES!  
-Whining/Blaming Others....."LOSERS LIMP"

"Nobody can do it for you."

**Ralph Cordiner**

"The willingness to accept responsibility for one's own life is the source from which self-respect springs."

**Joan Didion**

#### **Mr. Shannon's Directives:**

1. Book bags are NOT allowed in class and are to be kept in your locker during the school day. Small purses (smaller than a text book) will be allowed until they become a distraction. If they become a distraction, they will not be allowed and must be kept in the student's locker. This will be dealt with on an individual basis.
2. iPods/mp3 players and cell phones are NOT allowed in the science classroom.
3. Due to safety and custodial issues, will not be allowed to bring any food or drink into the classroom during science lab.

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**COURSE OBJECTIVES AND SCHEDULE**

**Semester 1**

Introduction

- True Colors Personality Survey
- Class Expectations and Guidelines
- Class Syllabus and Guidelines
- Lab Procedures
- Lab Safety

Unit 1 - Biological Principles

- The Science of Life

Unit 2 - Cells

- Structure and Function of the Cell
- Homeostasis and Transport
- Photosynthesis  
**(SS 12.4.1)**
- Cellular Respiration
- Cell Reproduction

Unit 3 - Genetics

- Fundamentals of Genetics
- Nucleic Acids and Protein Synthesis
- Inheritance Patterns and Human Genetics
- DNA Technology  
**(SS 12.4.2)**

**Semester 2**

Unit 4 - Evolution

- The Origin of Life
- Evolution: Evidence and Theory  
**(SS 12.4.3)**
- Classification

Unit 5 - Ecology

- Introduction to Ecology
- Populations  
**(SS 12.4.4)**
- Community Ecology  
**(SS 12.4.5)**
- Ecosystems and the Biosphere
- Behavior of Organisms  
**(SS 12.4.6)**

Unit 6- Microorganisms (If Time Allows...)

- Bacteria
- Viruses
- Protozoa
- Algae
- Fungi

Unit 7- Plants (If Time Allows...)

- Importance of Plants
- Plant Evolution and Classification
- Plant Structure and Function
- Plant Reproduction
- Plant Responses