

# HONORS BIOLOGY SYLLABUS ~ 2018-2019

## Instructor's Information

- Course : Honors Biology
- Instructor: Mrs. R. R. Wingerden
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- Web Site: <http://www.rwingerden.com>

## Course Materials

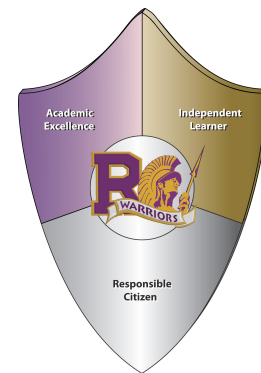
- **Text:** *Biology - Concepts & Connections* Campbell, Mitchell, & Reece (4th Edition)
- **Materials:** Tablet or BYOD, Earphones, Notebook (Five Subject Spiral, 11" x 8.5", college ruled, **200 sheets**), pens, #2 pencils, highlighters (minimum of three colors).

## Course Description

- This is a two semester advanced college preparatory lab science course designed to teach students the concepts and principles of biology. Students will develop a conceptual framework for modern biology and recognize unifying themes that integrate the major topics of biology. Students will learn about the scientific process, cellular biology, genetics, evolution, physiology, and ecology. Laboratory activities stress the development of important skills such as detailed observation, accurate recording, experimental design, and data interpretation and analysis. Students will develop critical thinking skills through research and discussions about issues relating to current advancements in Biology.
- **PREREQUISITE** - Students should have successfully completed a year of laboratory science with a "B" or better and one year of Algebra I with a "B" or better.
- **GRADE** - 9, 10, 11, 12

## Grading Policy

- Grades are calculated on a percentage basis. The value of each individual assignment varies. Students earn a grade based of the quality and accuracy of the work they complete. The course is divided into the following weighted categories: Exams: 50%, Laboratory: 25%, and Notebook/Assignment: 25%. Letter grades are assigned based on the following scale: A: 90 - 100%; B: 80 - 89%; C: 70 - 79%; D: 60 - 69%; F: Below 60%.
  - **Exams:** This category of the course includes tests and quizzes. Chapter tests will be given over each major unit and are always announced in advance. Quizzes are given during a unit and may or may not be announced in advance. Calculators and other materials are not to be shared during tests. If a student fails to follow the test taking policies, then their actions will result in loss of points on the exam. Students have *three school days* to review a test with the instructor. The review window begins on the day scores for that test are posted in class. Students wishing to review a test should make an appointment with the instructor within the review window.
  - **Laboratory:** Laboratory exercises accompany most units and may require a written report. Lab exercise write-ups will vary in detail and complexity depending on the experiment and the subject matter.
  - **Notebook/Assignments:** This category of the course includes lecture notes, classwork, homework, and participation. Each student is **REQUIRED** to have a science notebook, preferably a spiral bound (9"x11", college ruled, 200 sheets). All notes, assignments, and handouts for a unit will go in the student's science notebook. All course notes will be taken using the Cornell Notes Method. All notes and assignments will be assessed and rewarded points based on accuracy of content and completion. Classwork and homework is assigned to support and reinforce concepts discussed in class. Homework assignments are announced in advance, typically the Friday before the week they are due, and are posted in class and on the course webpage. Assignments are due at the **BEGINNING** of the period unless otherwise stated by the instructor. The participation grade is designed to reward those who follow the rules and help create an environment conducive to learning. Tardiness, cuts, and excessive trips to the restroom during class time will result in a loss of participation points. Participation points will be totaled and added to the student's grade at the end of each grading period.
- **Extra Credit:** Extra credit is available on an individual basis and must be **PRE- APPROVED** by the instructor. Information outlining the available extra credit can be found posted in class and on the class website. Interested students should read this information prior to approaching the instructor. If after reading the posted information students have additional questions, then they may approach the instructor during non-class hours for clarification. The student may only work on one extra credit project at a time. There is a maximum of 100 points of extra credit available to each student per semester. The extra credit due date is posted in class and on the webpage. Late extra credit assignments will **NOT** be accepted. Extra credit points earned by a student will be added to the Exams category of their grade.
- **Cheating:** Students found cheating on an assignment will receive a zero on that assignment; and if necessary, disciplinary action. *Copying someone's work or allowing someone to copy your work is considered cheating.* Talking or participating by actively listening to a conversation during an exam is considered cheating.



***Put this syllabus in your notebook for future reference.***

**Late Work:** Late work is accepted, but not for full credit, and may be turned in anytime *before the scheduled notebook check* for the chapter the assignment belongs to. Late work will NOT be accepted for credit after the chapter notebook check.

**Make-ups:**

- **Assignments** are accepted late for full credit if the student has an excused absence for the day the assignment was assigned or due. If the student is absent for multiple days, and those absences are excused, then the student has as many days that s/he was absent to complete the missing assignments. It is the student's responsibility to determine the assignments that s/he missed due to an absence. All absences must be cleared through the attendance office.
- **Lab** write-ups are accepted late if the student has an excused absence for the day the lab was due. Labs must be turned in on the day of a student's return to class or a zero will be given for the lab. If a student misses a lab activity day, then they must reschedule a time to make up the missed lab work with the instructor on the first day they return to class. If the student fails to arrange this make-up, then they will receive a zero on the lab.
- One make-up **TEST** will be available for each grading period. This exam will include topics covered during the previous six weeks of instruction. This make-up opportunity is given during class and is typically scheduled for the last Thursday of the grading period. The percentage earned on this exam will be entered in the place of any missed test scores for the prior grading period. A test missed due to an unexcused absence, such as a cut, may not be made up. Students that have not missed a test may use this make-up opportunity to improve a test score for the grading period. If a higher percentage is earned on the make-up exam, then this percentage will replace the student's lower test score. If a student is absent for the make-up exam, regardless if this absence is **excused**, then they forfeit their retake opportunity.
- If a **QUIZ** is missed, then the student must approach the instructor the day upon their return to class and schedule a make-up. If this is not done, then the student may receive a ZERO for the missed quiz. A quiz missed due to an unexcused absence, such as a cut, may not be made up. There are no quiz retakes.
- The instructor is available to review all exams. Students have three days, from the time they learn of their score on the exam, to review that exam. All appointments with the instructor should be scheduled in advance.

**Classroom Expectations and Contract**

- **Discipline:** Any necessary disciplinary action will be dealt with in accordance with the Ernest Righetti High School discipline policy as described in the Student Parent Handbook.
  - **Citizenship:** Students at Righetti High are assigned a citizenship grade, either Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory, at each grading period. Students requiring disciplinary action can expect to receive an Unsatisfactory Citizenship grade.
  - **Attendance/Tardy Policy:** See Student Parent Handbook.
  - **Classroom Rules:**
- Attendance is mandatory and necessary for success in this class. All absences must be excused. Students must notify the instructor, a minimum of three days in advance, to obtain permission to participate in a school activity that occurs during the scheduled class time.
  - Upon entering the class, students should read and immediately follow the instructions on the board ("DO NOW"). The instructor excuses the class - not the bell. If you wish to be dismissed on time from class, then the room must be in order (supplies returned, classroom clean, etc...) and all students should be quietly sitting in their assigned seat.
  - Food, drink, candy, and gum are not permitted at any time in the classroom. All trash will be kept off the floor (and the furniture). Students found writing on or defacing school property will be subject to disciplinary action.
  - During laboratories and group work, students should stay with their group and focus on the assigned task. If students do not use their class time productively, then they will have difficulty being successful in this course.
  - Students are expected to help maintain a distraction-free learning environment. Talking during lectures and demonstrations is not tolerated. Students are expected to be respectful at all times and participate intelligently in class discussions.
  - Students should keep all personal belongings away during class time. This includes work from other classes, makeup and mirrors, personal notes, and all electronic devices (cell phones, PDAs, MP3s, etc...).
  - Computers and laboratory materials become the financial responsibility of the student when checked out for use during the period. Be careful with ALL equipment. Students whose actions are deemed by the instructor to represent a safety hazard during labs will be immediately ejected from the classroom. Stern disciplinary action will follow.
  - There is absolutely NO TALKING during tests and quizzes. If a student appears to be talking or participating in a conversation by listening to someone else who is talking while an exam is in progress, then they will receive a ZERO on the exam. The instructor, and only the instructor, will signal the end of the exam.
  - When class is in session, students may not leave the classroom to use the restroom without penalty. This is in accordance with school policy and is enforced to ensure student safety. If a student requests a bathroom pass during class time and chooses to leave class, then the student may lose participation points. This policy is enforced to discourage classroom disruptions and encourage the students to use the restroom during the passing period.

Please sign, remove this page from the packet, and **return it to Mrs. Wingerden.**

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## STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

By signing this contract, the parent and the student acknowledge that they have read the **Honors Biology Syllabus** and that they *understand* and *agree* to adhere to the guidelines outlined.

Academic  
Excellence

Independent  
Learner

\_\_\_\_\_ printed student name

\_\_\_\_\_ signature of student

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
/ date

\_\_\_\_\_ signature of parent or guardian

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
/ date

Please return **completed**  
STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING  
to your instructor, Mrs. Wingerden.

Responsible  
Citizen

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