

Syllabus -Biology Semester 1

Mr. Taubitz, room 109

Classroom Textbook: Prentice Hall Biology by Miller and Levine

Required Student Materials: Science Binder w/5 dividers
Closed Toed Shoes (available at all times)
Calculator (preferably scientific)

Course Overview:

This course is designed to fulfill the 2nd year credit for science at Romeo High School. This course will provide students with experiences that will better prepare them for other higher life sciences like botany/zoology or anatomy/physiology, as well as for college science courses. First semester biology topics covered by quarter are listed below:

1st Quarter: Scientific Method
Inorganic and Organic Chemistry Review
Cells and Cellular Processes
Photosynthesis and Cellular Respiration

2nd Quarter: DNA Review
Nucleic Acids and Protein Synthesis
Introductory Genetics

Attendance Policy:

The attendance policy for my room, enforced by Romeo High School, is as follows:

- 3 tardies = an automatic after school detention (Includes T⁺¹⁰)... **I keep good records!**
- More than 10% of semester absent = **Failure of Course** (No course credit awarded for semester)
- Remember – green tardy passes from office are still **tardies!**

Grading Policy:

The grade breakdown for this course is as follows, which was determined by Romeo High School. Classroom work will be graded using the percent system, and the final grade found on report cards (and GPA) will be determined using the 4 pt. system.

<u>Percent System</u>	<u>4 Pt. System</u>
93 - 100 = A	4.0 = A
90 - 92 = A-	3.5 = A-
87 - 89 = B+	3.0 = B
83 - 86 = B	2.5 = B-
80 - 82 = B-	2.0 = C
77 - 79 = C+	1.5 = C-
73 - 76 = C	1.0 = D
70 - 72 = C-	under = F
67 - 69 = D+	
63 - 66 = D	
60 - 62 = D-	
59 and below = F	

Determining Your Grade in BIO

*Your overall grade will be determined (per student handbook) by a 70/30 Grading Scale:

70% of your overall grade = Classroom Assessments (i.e. Tests, Quizzes, Projects)

30% of your overall grade = Daily Practice (i.e. Homework, Labs/ Activities, Exit Tickets)

* Your semester grade (that appears on transcripts) will be based on a 40/40/20 Grading Scale:

40% = 1st Quarter, 40% = 2nd Quarter, 20% = Midterm Exam

Classroom Rules:

There are 3 main classroom rules and they are:

#1 - Come to class prepared and ready to learn every day.

* This includes supplies - I will NOT lend out pencils/pens/paper

#2 - Respect your classmates, classroom and teacher at all times

* Raise your hand to speak, ask questions often, and listen to others that speak

#3 - I dismiss you from class...not the bell.

* Stay in your seats and wait until the lesson is complete before being dismissed

Secrets for Success in Biology:

Wearing of Closed Toed Shoes is Required on All Lab Days: No matter the state of weather outside, all students will be required to wear closed toed shoes on lab days to gain access into the lab and earn credit. Foot wear such as **sandals, flip flops, crocs, and high heel shoes** are **not** permitted. All students breaking this rule will be given a zero for the lab.

** Please keep a pair of closed toed shoes in your locker at all times in case you forget to wear them to school.*

Biology Binder: All students need a "Biology Binder," which should be a 3 ring binder that contains at least 5 dividers labeled "**Daily Objectives**", "**Class notes**," "**Homework**," "**Labs/Activities**" and "**Quizzes/Tests**." Students will place their work in chronological order from the semester in the corresponding sections of the binder. This will ensure that students keep organized and can look back at everything covered during each class period throughout the semester.

In addition, students have been provided with a **Binder Check Rubric Sheet** that must be placed at the front of the science binder and maintained by the student throughout the semester.

** The Biology Binders will be collected before the end of each card marking for up to **10 pts. extra credit**. Students will receive points based on recording daily objectives from board (up to 5 pts.) and completion and effort demonstrated via the organization of the binder (up to 5 pts.).*

Homework: This will usually be assigned 1-2 times per week, and points will vary based on complexity of the assignment. Students will earn **5 -10 points** per assignment towards their course grade. All homework will be collected at the beginning of the class period when due. Late credit (50% of original value) will only be offered for assignments that are 1 day late - **NO credit will be awarded after the 1 day grace period** (Unless due to verified sickness or other extenuating circumstances).

In addition to weekly homework, I will be frequently implementing “Exit Ticket” assignments that will require students to utilize the closing minutes of class to think critically about the information learned in the class period, and construct a short written response to a review question. This response must be handed to me before the student leaves that period. These responses will be graded from 0-2 pts:

Score	Explanation for grading
2	Well thought out and displays mastery of content
1	Response attempts to make connections
0	Response is poor, or not submitted

Quizzes: These will be taken by the students approximately every 2-3 weeks (students will be notified in advance to prepare). Quizzes will usually be worth **25 points** each. The format will include multiple choice, short answer questions, and diagrams.

Tests: These will be given upon the completion of each unit. Each test will be worth **50 points**. The test format will be the same as quizzes.

Labs: Students will be assigned laboratory exercises and reports that will also contribute to their course grade. The labs will range from **10 - 20 points** depending on the complexity and effort required in the report.

- Because I encourage parent and guardian involvement, if you need to reach me please call me at Romeo High School’s Main Office (586) 752-0300 extension 7082, or e-mail me at scott.taubitz@romeo.k12.mi.us.

Parent/Student Information

Please detach the document located below, fill out all available information, and return to Mr. Taubitz in room 109, no later than **Monday, September 10th, 2012**. This document is intended as a verification that you and your student have read through, and are aware of, the classroom policies that your student must follow throughout the school semester. Please note that we utilize the **Power School** program to post your student's classroom grades to the internet that you can conveniently access at any time, using your individualized logins provided by the district.

This document is worth **10 class points**. Not turning in this document will result in a zero on the first class assignment. Again, if you ever need to contact me, please call me at Romeo High School's Main Office (586) 752-0300, or e-mail me at scott.taubitz@romeo.k12.mi.us. Thank you for your times. I look forward to working with you and your student this school year!

----- retain the upper portion for your records -----

Please print the following information clearly

Name of Student _____

Name of Parent(s) or Guardian(s) _____

E-mail address of parent or guardian (if applicable) _____

Occasionally in this semester the students may view content related videos, or segments of videos, that have a rating of PG or PG-13. Please check one of the boxes below:

YES, I permit my student to view PG or PG-13 videos that may be shown in class

NO, I do **NOT** permit my student to view PG or PG-13 videos that may be shown in class

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date Signed _____