

**MVLA
2019-20
COURSE INFORMATION SHEET**

Course Title: Biology Honors (0331)

School: MVHS

UC/CSU requirement: Yes

Textbook and/or other learning resources: Concepts and Applications 9e. Starr et al., 2015

Student Learning Outcomes:

Biology Honors will cover the California Science Framework for Biology, and elements of the Common Core/Next Generation Science Standards. Throughout the course we will utilize critical thinking skills, explore content, and develop mastery of content with a deep level of comprehension. Content that will be covered in this course includes:

- Classification of Life
- Biochemistry
- Cells
- Origin of Life on Earth
- Metabolism, photosynthesis, and respiration
- DNA and genetics
- Gene Expression
- Evolution
- Ecology
- Biotechnology (if time)
- Physiology (if time)

In addition to mastery of the content listed above, students will develop the academic behaviors necessary for success in future high school courses and in college. We will use the class to refine note taking skills, organization, reflection, revision, and research. Together, we will hone our reading, writing, and presenting skills within the context of science. We will develop a mindset towards learning; challenge is a good thing and the mechanism by which we grow as learners. Lastly, we are all in this together; supporting each other as we work individually, collaborating as we work in pairs and bringing out the best in each other as we work in teams in discussions, lab experiments and other projects.

Assessment and Grading (BP 5121 / AR 5121): To ensure that every student has an equal opportunity to demonstrate their learning, the course instructors implement aligned grading practices and common assessments with the same frequency.

1. Grading categories and their percentage weights:

Work Habits – 10% Classwork – 45% Tests – 30% Final Exam – 15% (each semester)

2. Achievement evidence collected within each grading category:

Work habits: This includes homework completion, classwork completion, organization, and participation

Classwork: This includes quizzes, assessed classwork, lab work, and short projects.

Tests: There is one culminating exam per unit. 1-2 culminating unit projects will be included per semester; students will be informed of which projects are classified as Tests or Classwork when they are assigned.

Final exam: There will be one final exam at the end of each semester.

3. Grading scales:

A: 89.50-100% B: 79.50-89.49% C: 69.50-79.49% D: 59.50-69.49% F: 50-59.49%

4. Homework/outside of class practices (AR 6154):

Nightly homework could include reading, taking notes, worksheets, lab reports, researching topics online, watching videos online, and/or reviewing for quizzes/tests. It is highly recommended that you continually review unit content throughout the unit, rather than right before an exam.

Group work: While students often work collaboratively on collecting data and other activities, students are required to complete their own assignments individually unless explicitly stated by the teacher. Individual work means demonstrating your own thought processes, graphing your own data, using your own words, and citing your sources. If you're unsure if you can have the same work as another group member: ASK.

5. Excused absence make up practices (Education Code 48205(b)):

The amount of time students will be provided to make up assignments missed due to excused absence(s) will be equal to the amount of days missed. Biology Honors is a fast paced course. It is difficult to experience a high level of success if you are unable to manage your time effectively. Assignments and announcements are regularly posted in class and on Google Classroom. Please make sure to check these resources during your absence if possible and email the instructor with questions.

If you have missed a large period of time due to an extended illness or other excused emergencies, it is your responsibility to contact your instructor to establish deadlines and make-ups for work you have missed.

6. Academic integrity violation practices (MVHS Academic Integrity Policy):

Students will be held to a high standard of academic integrity and school academic integrity policies will be adhered to. The Board expects that students will not commit acts of academic dishonesty. Any work completed with unauthorized aid will be considered a violation of policy. *By all means discuss things with partners, but your writing must be in your own words.* Check with your teacher if you are unsure or unclear about expectations.

7. Late work practices:

Do your best to complete all work on time. Late assignments will be accepted, but you will never earn more than 80% credit on late assignments without a pass. Late work must be submitted by the end of the unit, or if assigned at the end of the unit, within 2 weeks of the due date.

8. Revision practices:

Each unit test will have an optional retake during scheduled times. If a student chooses to retake the test and scores higher on the retake, the grade will replace the original test grade. If a student scores lower on the retake, the two scores will be averaged for a final test score.

Up to 3 classwork assignments may be revised for full credit using a late work pass, unless specified by the teacher. Quizzes, presentations, group work, and major projects are non-revisable.

In addition, at the end of the semester your one lowest classwork scores will be dropped from the gradebook. This policy will not be implemented into the gradebook until the end of the semester's first quarter. Please note that the dropped scores remain visible on the gradebook.

9. Extra credit practices:

Students should not expect any extra credit opportunities in science courses.

10. Additional grading practices:

Each student will receive 3 late/revision passes per semester. Late or revised classwork with a pass stapled to it will receive full assessed credit. Work must be submitted within the quarter it is due, but must be turned in by Friday prior to the last week of the quarter. These classwork passes exclude work in the test category, quizzes, group work, and projects.

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