

**MVLA**  
**2019-20**  
**COURSE INFORMATION SHEET**

**Course Title:** Pre-Biology

**School:** MVHS

**UC/CSU requirement:** No

**Textbook and/or other learning resources:** Science notebook provided in class

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

In this introductory environmental science course, students will gain both science and English language skills. In this class, students will be able to practice:

- Asking Questions and Defining Problems
- Developing and Using Models
- Planning and Carrying Out Investigations
- Analyzing and Interpreting Data
- Using Mathematics and Computational Thinking
- Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions
- Engaging in Argument from Evidence
- Obtaining, evaluating, and communication information

**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%  
Formative assessments – 40%  
Tests & Quizzes – 35%  
Final Exam – 15% (each semester)
2. Achievement evidence collected within each grading category:  
Work Habits: This category includes measures of homework completion, classwork completion, and notebook organization; approximately 1-2 per week.  
Formative assessments: This category will include measures of student biology knowledge and include items such as labs, project, readings, and worksheets graded for quality; approximately 1-2 per unit.  
Tests & Quizzes: approximately 1-2 per unit  
Final Exam: one per 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](#)):  
Students should expect up to 2 hours of focused, undistracted homework time per week. Homework may include organization, studying, or practicing material learned in class.
5. Excused absence make up practices ([Education Code 48205\(b\)](#)):  
-If a student knows about an upcoming excused absence in advance, they should notify the teacher as soon as possible.  
-It is the student's responsibility to check with the teacher as soon as possible when they return from an excused absence to be informed on how to get caught up.  
-Makeup work due to excused absences: Work that is late due to excused absences must be made up within a time equal to the absence to receive full credit.
6. Academic integrity violation practices ([MVHS Academic Integrity Policy](#)):

The Board expects that students will not cheat, lie, plagiarize, or commit other acts of academic dishonesty. Any work completed with unauthorized aid will be considered cheating. Check with your teacher if you are unsure or unclear about their expectations regarding the use of the internet or any assignment guidelines.

7. Late work practices:

*Work Habits Assignments:*

-Late assignments will be accepted with a penalty until the next test.

*Labs & Projects:*

-Late deadline is 2 weeks after the due date.

-Late assignments receive a 10% deduction on the assignment's score.

-Assignments not submitted by the late deadline will not be accepted.

\*Speak with the teacher promptly if you feel you have a special situation.

8. Revision practices:

-Labs & Projects, Tests & Quizzes can be revised for a maximum of half the credit lost.

-All revisions are due 2 weeks after the graded material is returned to the student or by the end of the semester, whichever comes first. (Students must follow directions for revisions given for the assignment.)

-Revisions will not be accepted late.

-Revisions cannot be revised.

9. Extra credit practices:

No extra credit will be given in pre-environmental science.

10. Additional grading practices:

**Instructor's email address:**

[lyudmila.shemyakina@mvla.net](mailto:lyudmila.shemyakina@mvla.net)

**Additional information:**