

**MVLA**  
**2019-2020**  
**COURSE INFORMATION SHEET**

**Course Title:** Biology

**School:** MVHS

**UC/CSU requirement:** Yes/ Subject D

**Textbook and/or other learning resources:** *Biology* by Miller and Levine, 2002

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

In this foundational biology course, students will follow California's [Next Generation Science Standards](#) to...

- use mathematical and computer models to determine the factors that affect the size and diversity of populations in ecosystems, including the availability of resources and interactions between organisms.
- make a model that links photosynthesis and respiration in organisms to cycles of energy and matter in the Earth system. They will gather evidence about the linked history of Earth's biosphere and atmosphere.
- develop a model about how rock layers record evidence of evolution as fossils. Building on their learning from previous grades, they will focus on effectively communicating this evidence and relating it to principles of natural selection.
- develop explanations about the specific mechanisms that enable parents to pass traits on to their offspring. They will make claims about which processes give rise to variation in DNA codes and calculate the probability that offspring will inherit traits from their parents.
- use models to create explanations of how cells use DNA to construct proteins, build biomass, reproduce, and create complex multicellular organisms. They will investigate how these organisms maintain stability.
- use computer models to investigate how Earth's systems respond to changes, including climate change. They will make specific forecasts and design solutions to mitigate the impacts of these changes on the biosphere.

**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%  
Labs & Projects – 35%  
Tests & Quizzes – 40%  
Final Exam – 15% (each semester)
2. Achievement evidence collected within each grading category:  
Work Habits: This category includes measures of homework completion, classwork completion, organization, and participation; approximately 1-2 per week.  
Labs & Projects: This category will include measures of student biology knowledge and include items such as labs and projects; approximately 1-2 per unit  
Tests & Quizzes: approximately 1 quiz and 1 test 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 2-3 hours of focused, undistracted homework time per week.

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.
  - Assignments submitted after each test will not be accepted.

*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:
  - Work habits assignments cannot be revised.
  - 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 Biology.
10. Additional grading practices:

**Instructors' email addresses:**

[anthony.gallego@mvla.net](mailto:anthony.gallego@mvla.net), [mala.krishna@mvla.net](mailto:mala.krishna@mvla.net), [lyudmila.shemyakina@mvla.net](mailto:lyudmila.shemyakina@mvla.net), [heather.wygant@mvla.net](mailto:heather.wygant@mvla.net)

**Additional information:**