

Grading Policy: Biology Clovis High 2020-2021

<p style="text-align: center;">Grade Breakdown</p> <p>Participation - 5%</p> <p>Notebook – 20%</p> <p>Assessments – 75%</p> <p>All assignments are listed in Q Gradebook and are updated regularly.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Homework/Classwork/Independent Work</p> <p>Number of days per week – 3+</p> <p>Weekends – Occasionally</p> <p>Time per night – 15 to 30 minutes</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Make up Work</p> <p>Students are expected to complete any work they miss from class/zoom.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>All incomplete/absent work must be completed before students can retake any of their learning target quizzes.</i> <p>All assignments/resources are available Digitally in the Notebook and Google Classroom.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>If you have questions – please refer to your teacher’s Google Classroom.</i>
<p style="text-align: center;">Definition of Terms</p> <p>Participation – Engagement during our LIVE INTERACTIVE zooms (3 per week) – and TIMELY completion of Notebook slides and Lab Activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Answering questions during Pear Deck presentations or other interactive activities during zoom Collaborating during zoom with peers <p>Independent Work - Fifteen minutes + work on assignments on Monday : Vocabulary work in Digital Notebook</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher will specify words that need to be completed for the week from the vocabulary list provided. <i>All directions are in Notebooks.</i> <p>Assessments – Quizzes and Tests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quizzes: Learning target quizzes are given in each unit. These are mastery based quizzes and make up most of this category. <i>Please see details in syllabus</i> Tests: Summative assessments given at the end of each unit – along with a summative final for each semester. <i>Please see details in syllabus.</i> <p>Notebook: <i>All classwork and homework is contained in the notebook.</i> Each student will have a Digital Notebook shared in their Google Classroom. Each week teachers will specify ‘pages’ to be completed in the notebook. Notebooks will be ‘due’ Thursday/Friday and grades will be updated by Monday. (<i>see details in syllabus</i>)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Testing Policy</p> <p>Quizzes: Learning target quizzes are given during each unit. Students can retake these quizzes as necessary to demonstrate mastery of the learning target</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Retakes are given for full credit (5 points) for all LEARNING TARGET quizzes.</i> <i>After a retake, if student is still struggling they will receive more direct teaching from their instructor to help them achieve mastery of the target.</i> <i>see syllabus for more details</i> <p>Assessments: There are no retakes for Unit tests or Final summative assessments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>If a students MISSES a test due to an absence arrangements should be made with teacher to make up the test.</i> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Late Work</p> <p>Late work is accepted before the end of the respective unit for full credit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Consistently turning in late work will impact the participation grade of a student, as well as their ability to retake quizzes</i> <i>FULL POINTS</i> can be earned on work turned in late – under our ‘NOTEBOOK’ category <p style="text-align: center;">Extra Credit</p> <p>There is no extra credit.</p>

Student Expectations for Online Learning

Attendance	Behavior	Academics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Log on daily, each period, on time, and stay connected to the school in the online learning platform • Enable video the entire class period as instructed by the teacher • Use first and last name on Zoom • Be seated in an appropriate learning space (e.g. desk, table, counter, quiet space, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CUSD Dress Code is in effect • Maintain an appropriate background and work-space • Use appropriate language in the virtual classroom (i.e., chat and classroom) • Check your surroundings • Be present during classroom instruction by actively participating and engaging <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Clovis High school expectations and California Education Code apply during instructional times and during any school activity!</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete your own work - plagiarism and copying offenses will be enforced by the teacher and school both for assignments and tests • Stay on pace with daily assignments • Take assessments online as directed by the teacher • Regularly monitor grades and assignments using StudentConnect
Communication	Engagement	Technology
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact the teacher for the following: missing class, lost internet connection or other technology issues, questions about grades and assignments, or if help is needed • Check Google classroom, school email, or other online resources (as provided by teachers) daily • Share digital information with parents/guardians • Utilize CUSD emails when communicating outside the online environment with teachers and CHS staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete and turn in assignments regularly • Actively participate in class by participating in collaborative discussion, asking relevant questions, working in small groups as instructed by the teacher, or using classwork time appropriately • Complete work for current class and remain off secondary devices when given class time to complete assignments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have access to a laptop/chromebook/desktop and internet for work completion • Abide by the district technology agreement • Use approved technology during class time



Syllabus
Biology 2020-2021
Clovis High School
Mrs. Kaitlin Rolen

CONTACT INFORMATION

Room: N-14

School phone: 327-1000

E-mail: kaitlinrolen@cusd.com

I. Course Introduction

“It is curious how often erroneous theories have had a beneficial effect for particular branches of science.” – Ernst Mayr
“Half of science is putting forth the right questions.” – Francis Bacon

Biology is the study of living organisms and their relationships to each other and their environment. As such, biology is a unique science; the same logic that may be applied to physical sciences such as chemistry and physics will not always be appropriate when thinking about the science of biology. For students to be successful in a biology class they must learn to be critical thinkers and they must not be afraid to ask questions. The science of biology is best understood by examining natural phenomena and asking questions about what causes those phenomena to occur. This is the approach that we will take in class this year. In this class, students will be required to **ACTIVELY READ** provided texts, participate in small group and class **DISCUSSIONS**, and be able to **EXPLAIN** their thought process when drawing a conclusion. Considering the necessity for distance learning, frequent **COMMUNICATION** will be critical to the success of students. We will be taking an **INQUIRY**-based approach to science that will require students to investigate a problem, search for possible solutions, make observations, ask questions, test out their ideas, and think creatively. This is exactly how biologists have approached their science for the last 300 years!

“The best teachers are those who show you where to look but don’t tell you what to see.” – Alexandra K. Trenfor

II. CLASS MATERIALS

1. **TEXTBOOK:** Biggs, Alton et al. 2005. Biology: The Dynamics of Life. Glenco and McGraw-Hill Inc., Ohio. 1119 pp. The textbook is a reference to be used for reading assigned sections and completing homework/classwork. Whether engaged in distance learning or face-to-face learning on campus, students are **NOT** required to bring their textbook to class every day; if students need to bring the book to class they will be notified in advance
2. **DIGITAL NOTEBOOK:** All classwork, homework, activities and notes will be completed in a digital notebook that will be provided to students via Google Classroom. Should students elect to print out materials or, as circumstances change over the course of the year, be given handouts, it is suggested that they keep their materials organized in a binder/notebook dedicated to Biology.

***Consistently coming to online or in-person classes unprepared will cost students participation points and negatively affect their grade!**

III. ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

1. Students will need to join my Google Classroom by visiting classroom.google.com and signing in with their CUSD provided Google account. Each class will have a unique class code; I will provide the appropriate code for each class period. Students will use Google Classroom to access Zoom links for online classes, the digital notebooks that contain their classwork/homework/notes, and other useful resources for the class. Students will need to visit my Google Classroom page regularly.
2. The CHS Connections page will be a good resource for all of your classes at Clovis High. Information and links to resources for biology can be found at: <http://www.chsconnection.com/biology>

IV. STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

1. Students are expected to be in class and on time every day, whether they are in the physical or virtual classroom.
2. Students must adhere to the dress code and technology policies established by CUSD – **ALL SCHOOL POLICIES WILL BE ENFORCED**. Please be aware of your surroundings and what can be seen in the field of view during an online Zoom class.
3. Students are expected to show courtesy and respect for one another, teachers, administrators and school equipment at all times; I will extend the same courtesy and respect to my students.
4. Students must be prepared for class, proactive in their education and on task during class time – the participation grades will depend upon this!
5. Students must be visible in Zoom during classroom instruction; work time will have different expectations. Should a student need to step away from their computer during live instruction, he/she is expected to send a private message in the chat to notify their teacher.
6. When on campus, students may not leave the classroom without a pass and must sign out/in when they leave/return. Students leaving for the restroom may be asked to leave their cell phone in class; phones can be picked up after students return to class.
7. Inappropriate behavior in either the physical or virtual classroom will result in consequences.

V. POLICIES

LATE WORK:

- Late work will be accepted for full credit up until the end of the unit in which it was assigned. *Please be aware, however, that consistently turning work in late will negatively impact participation grades.*
- Once assigned, all classwork will be available to students in Google Classroom at any time, as course material, or in their Digital Notebook.

MAKE-UP POLICY:

- Since all classwork is available in Google Classroom, students are expected to complete any work they miss from an in-person or online class.
- All incomplete/absent assignments must be completed for students to be eligible to retake a learning target assessment.

GRADING POLICY:

“Put a grade on a student assignment and the learning ends. Give feedback and start a dialogue instead.”

Traditionally, I have tried to give students points for almost every activity they completed in class; students frequently looked at the score one time and then never glanced at that activity again. That approach does not provide actual insight into how much my students are learning and I want my students to value learning rather than the accumulation of points. Much of the work we do in class will be focused on learning and practicing specific skills and the application of scientific principles. During these activities, students should feel that it is okay to struggle or even fail. Those are critical parts of the learning process; scientists frequently learn more from unexpected results than they do from a successful experiment! If everything a student does is collected and scored, students will not have the freedom they need to learn and, as a result, not everything that a student does in my class will receive a score. All assignments are designed to help students practice and hone skills which will be assessed later in a unit of study.

Assignments that are scored will be evaluated using a 5-point scale that indicates a student’s mastery of the course content. Scores on assignments (or elements of an assignment) can be interpreted as follows:

- 5 = advanced
- 4 = proficient
- 3 = intermediate
- 2 = novice
- 1 = beginner (student did not demonstrate knowledge/ability – assignment may be incomplete)

This approach to scores may be challenging for some students as there is a natural tendency to associate a score of 5 with an 'A' and a score of 1 with an 'F'. Ultimately these individual scores are not indicative of letter grades but rather a student's mastery of the content/skill that was being assessed. A student's grade will instead be determined by the accumulation of these scores on all the assignments and skills (identified on a list of learning targets that will be provided at the start of every unit) that he/she has mastered over the course of a semester. If a student's scores indicate more advanced mastery of the course content (i.e. that student has earned more 5s than 4s) that student will receive an 'A' in the class. Scores on assignments/learning targets are what will be entered into Student/Parent Connect so that both students and parents will be aware of a student's progress in the class.

Student grades will largely depend upon their ability to show what they have learned in class assessments and the semester final exam. Students will be provided with a list of learning targets for the assessments they will be given in each unit.

Students will be allowed to retake learning target quizzes for up to full credit (5). If upon their retake, they do not demonstrate mastery (4 or 5) they will need to attend intervention for Biology before they can retake the quiz again.

EXCEPTIONS: Retakes will not be given for Unit tests or Semester Finals

BREAKDOWN:

- Assessments (quizzes, unit tests, semester final) = **75%**
- Notebook (classwork/homework/notes/vocabulary) = **20%**
- Participation (engagement in zooms/completing notebook on time) = **5%**

90.0-100% = A 80.0-89.9% = B 70.0-79.9% = C 60.0-69.9% = D 59.9% and below = F

GRADES WILL BE POSTED WEEKLY AND STUDENTS/PARENTS WILL ALSO RECEIVE A NOTIFICATION IF THEY ARE IN DANGER OF FAILING. GRADES CAN BE CHECKED VIA QZANGLE PARENT CONNECT or STUDENT CONNECT.

VI. CHEATING:

Students are expected to complete their own work. **Copying another student's work is considered cheating and copying/pasting material from the internet directly into digital notebooks and homework assignments is plagiarism.** Both cheating and plagiarism will result in a zero for the test, assignment, or lab the student cheated on.

VII. SAFETY:

Students are expected to act in a safe manner during all labs and follow lab directions carefully and completely. Inappropriate and/or unsafe behavior during a lab will result in the student being banned from actively participating in further experiments.