

# Biology Syllabus

2007-2008

Mrs. Nicole Sophocles  
4th period

## Contact Information

I can be reached for class and homework questions, comments and concerns at the below E-mail:

nicolesophocles@wyeriverupperschool.org

or by phone: 410-827-5822 WRUS

**Class web site:** [www.wyeriverupperschool.org](http://www.wyeriverupperschool.org) - an excellent resource for posted handouts, schedules, important dates, field trips, forms. Some project details and exam study guides will also be provided and updated on this site. Please use this resource to obtain class updates and to stay informed about class assignments. (As wrus now has a new website, my class site will not be fully available st the start of the school year.)

## Course Description

The biology class is a college preparatory course with an emphasis on hands-on learning, labs, critical thinking, and connections between real life experiences and the content. The content focuses on the scientific method, cells, photosynthesis and respiration, Mendelian and molecular genetics, evolution and taxonomy, and the diversity of life. Students will be required to complete quarter and semester long projects, write lab reports, participate in group discussions of current events, and complete a variety of in class and home assignments.

One of the goals of this class is to prepare students with the skills necessary to be successful in future science classes in high school and college.

## Course Objectives

- Students will understand the nature and history of biology.
- Students will be able to identify and apply the tools of biology.
- Students will understand scientific facts, concepts, principles, and theories in biology.
- Students will develop the skills of scientific inquiry while learning the concepts of biology the classroom, lab, and field.
- Students will understand how biological concepts apply to their everyday lives and develop an increased knowledge of these concepts.

## Materials

Students must keep an organized notebook and binder or folder system. Students are required to have all materials in class and ready to use by class start, unless informed otherwise. Students will be given a textbook to use.

- notebook
- folder or binder for hw, assignments, and handouts
- composition notebook

## **Extension Activities**

Some students may be required to complete assignments, activities beyond that of the regular curriculum. If so, this will be discussed with the student at that time.

## **Computer and Technology Policy**

When asked to turn in an assignment that is on the computer, the document **must be printed beforehand** at home or before class begins (homeroom, lunch). Assignments will be incomplete and late if not printed. An alternative is to use bluetooth or like technology before class begins.

Music is typically not allowed during class.

Some assignments may be required to be typed. If the student's laptop is not available another resource (LRC for example) must be used to complete the assignment.

## **Grading**

The grading scale is from 0-100% and is as follows:

Homework, Notebook:	10%
Readiness:	10%
Class Assignments, Quizzes:	40%
Projects, Labs/Lab Reports, Tests:	40%

## **Readiness**

Readiness is graded as either a 0%, 50%, or 100%. It is expected that students be to class on time (unless under special circumstances) and have all materials out on their desks and ready within 2 minutes of class starting. A 50% will be given if the student is in class on time, but does not have necessary class materials.

If absent (excused), no grade will be reported. This will not affect the overall average.

If suspended or held out of class, a grade of 0% is reported.

## **Homework**

Homework is graded by a rubric on a scale of 0-100%. HW will be assigned as needed and will include review of information presented in class, preparation for class work, and vocabulary review.

## **Extra Credit**

Extra credit is available throughout the year and will be posted both in the classroom and the website. Extra credit is due one week before the end of each quarter.

## **Late Policy and Student Attendance**

According to the student handbook.

Name:  
Date:

**Biology Course Syllabus 2007-2008**  
Mrs. Sophocles

I have read and understand the course policies outlined.

Student Signature:

Parent Signature: