

## a-g BIOLOGY CLASS SYLLABUS 2013-2014

**INSTRUCTOR:** Rose James

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**TERM:** Two Semesters

**DAYS:** Tuesday-Thursday

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**LOCATION:** Chico Center, Room 216

**TIME:** 9:30 – 10:25 a.m. *or* 1 – 2 p.m.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** In this project and lab-based high school biology course, students will generate knowledge about the vast field of modern biology. The class is designed for those students who are planning on attending a college or university upon high school graduation. Your teacher will guide you on your journey through an exploration of biological concepts, serve as your facilitator, events planner, and source of information. Students will meet twice per week in class and participate in class activities, labs and discussions. They will also have daily independent study assignments. Students who actively participate to acquire knowledge will find that, by the end of our journey together, they will be richer in knowledge and experience.

**ATTENDANCE AND LATE HOMEWORK POLICY:** This class meets only twice per week. For this reason, students are expected to attend all classes and turn in required work as assigned. In the event that a student must miss a class, it is up to the student to contact the teacher or fellow classmates to make sure that all assignments are turned in promptly. ***Homework assignments are posted on the class website each week.*** Students have one week from the date of the absence to turn in any work missed during the absence. Lab and group activities are often impossible to replicate for one student, so missed classes will likely result in a lower grade.

**LATE HOMEWORK IS NOT ACCEPTED.** Keeping current with class assignments is crucial to furthering your understanding of course content.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** At the completion of this course, the student will show proficiency and understanding and applying a variety of biological concepts, laboratory techniques, and demonstrate an understanding of basic laboratory safety procedures. Topics will support California high school biology standards.

**GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:**

By the end of this class, students will be able to discuss, interpret, and integrate topics related to:

1. Characteristics of Life	6. Evolution
2. Principles of Ecology	7. Taxonomy
3. Chemistry of Life	8. Viruses, Bacteria and Protozoa
4. Cells	9. Invertebrates
5. Genetics	10. Vertebrates

**REQUIRED MATERIALS:** Students need to bring their textbook, completed assignments, biology binder, and a pencil.

**SUGGESTED MATERIALS:** Wear clothes that are easily washed and will not interfere with safe lab procedures.

## INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY:

1. Labs/Dissections	5. Audio/Visual Aids	9. Internet Activities
2. Discussion	6. Demonstration	10. Homework Assignments
3. Group Activities	7. Written Assignments	11. Tests and Quizzes
4. Case Studies	8. Student and Class Projects (written & oral)	12. Lecture

(If a pupil has a moral objection to dissection or otherwise harming or destroying animals, an alternative educational project will be assigned upon the parent or guardian's request.)

## REQUIREMENTS: COME TO CLASS PREPARED:

1. Read the text and other assigned work, complete assignments as directed
2. Study the vocabulary terms, this is imperative to understanding the concepts
3. Turn in all assignments on time (This means that you have to organize your time)
4. Late assignments are not accepted.
5. If you are ill and miss class, the work is due one week from the day you missed.
6. Treat everyone in class with respect
7. Help us take care of our classroom
8. No food or beverages during labs
9. Follow all safety guidelines carefully!
10. If you don't understand, keep asking
11. Clean up table and lab area before class is dismissed
12. In the event that a student consistently has difficulty in meeting the preceding guidelines, the student may be removed from class.

## CHEATING: Cheating is defined as:

1. Receiving or giving aid during an exam from anyone other than your instructor.
2. Using unauthorized materials during an exam.
3. Plagiarism; taking credit for the work, ideas and words of another person.

The penalty for cheating is an "F" for the exam or assignment and possible dismissal from class.

## GRADING:

TESTS: 40%

QUIZZES: 20%

HOMEWORK and CLASS WORK: 20%

LABS: 20%

**FINAL PROJECT:** Students will choose a biological topic of interest, with instructor's approval, and independently produce a written report, oral report, and visual aid, to be presented on the last day of class. Points Possible: 100