



Waterford School District
WATERFORD HIGH SCHOOLS
COURSE SYLLABUS
2014-2015



Course Title: <i>Honors Biology</i>
Instructor:Michael Lindemulder E-mail: lindem01@wsdmi.org Voicemail:(248)674-5967 Room number:338
Course Description This course is designed for the student who would like to pursue a deeper understanding of the required course content at a more rigorous pace. Successful completion of this course will prepare students for the rigor of both Advanced Placement and collegiate level science. The concepts studied include: heredity, evolution, cell structure and function, cellular reproduction, organization of living things, genetics, ecology, biogeochemical cycles, and environmental science.
Units of Study This course will examine the following topics at a minimum. Additional topics may be added if time is available. Characteristics of Life Biochemistry Cell Structure and Theory Cell Energetics Cell Division Genetics Animal Structure and Function Plant Structure and Function Evolution and Classification Ecology
Materials Needed Textbook: <i>Biology: Concepts and Connections</i> 6 th Edition – Campbell Required Materials: Binder/folder used exclusively for this course Grid-lined Composition Book for use as a lab notebook/field guide Blue or black pens
Instruction Notes will be given through lecture, presentations, readings, class discussion, and laboratory activities. Students will take notes in every class session. Much information is gleaned from discussion, thus attendance is imperative for success in this course.

Grading

The purpose of grading in this class is to ascertain and to communicate, fairly and accurately, the academic achievement of each student. "Modified Grade" will be noted on report cards for students who receive services per their current Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Grades will reflect assessment of individual student mastery of the course curriculum. Assessments will be based on individual achievement of established standards (criterion referenced), and not on student comparisons (norm referenced).

Example: Student A scored an 85% on a quiz, which is the highest score in the class. Student A received a letter grade of B. The next week, Student A scored an 85% on a vocabulary quiz, which is the lowest score for this quiz. Student A received a letter grade of a B on this assignment as well.

Grading Calculation

Grades will be reported based on the following district grading scale.

<u>Percent</u>	<u>Grade</u>
94.5	A
89.5	A-
87.5	B+
84.5	B
79.5	B-
77.5	C+
74.5	C
69.5	C-
67.5	D+
64.5	D
59.5	D-
0	E

Grade Weighting

Grades are weighted to give the intended importance to each learning goal and to each assessment. Grades in this class during the semester include assignments and activities in the following categories:

Achievement Factors	
Tests, Lab Notebooks, Projects	75%
Practice Factors	25%
Homework, Quizzes	

Semester exams will count as 10% of the final grade.

Grading Practices

In addition, the following grading practices are used:

Extra credit: No extra credit is offered.

Group work: Group work is used in this class, but in almost every circumstance, students will produce their own items to be graded.

Makeup/redo: Work missed due to an absence must be turned in within two school days of the last missed day. Only major out of class assignments (lab reports and papers) can be redone for an increased grade.

Classroom Expectations

Tardiness: You are expected to be on time every day; tardiness is unacceptable. Your tardiness will be paid back 10-fold. For each minute you are tardy, you will stay after school for 10 minutes. Times are always rounded up to the nearest minute. For example, if you arrive five seconds after the bell finishes ringing, that equates to one minute late, and 10 minutes after school. If you arrive two minutes and ten seconds after the bell finishes ringing, this would be three minutes late and would result in thirty minutes after school. Obviously, if you enter class after the bell with a legitimate pass, the penalty will be waved.

Class behavior/policies: All students are expected to behave as responsible adults. Students will treat others and their belongings with respect. Students will come to class prepared to work and be successful. All students will adhere to the student code of conduct. Our classroom is an environment of learning: No derogatory or offensive language will be used.

Mistakes in record keeping can occur. Hence, you should keep all work from class. This will also help you to prepare for the final exam.

You are responsible for getting work if you missed a class, I will not gather your work for you.

Passes: Being in class is crucial to success. Passes will only be given on a limited/emergency basis.

Food and Beverage: I will allow carbonated beverages as well as water and juices. The only condition with this rule is that if any beverage is spilled (yes even water) there will be no liquids in the classroom. Also, if I have to pick up bottles, cups (lids), or candy/food wrappers the privilege will be lost **for the entire class**. Just be responsible and make sure you clean up after yourself. Again, if you do not pick up after yourself, if the food is used as a projectile, or if food is spilled, it will no longer be allowed in the classroom. **Food and beverages will not be allowed on lab days.**

Possession of Non-Academic Materials: Any materials that you possess that are not used for an academic purpose are banned from the classroom. These items include, but are not limited to: laser pointers, cell phones, pagers, blackberry devices, personal video games, and cameras. You will be given ONE warning to put away the item. If the item is not put away it will be taken from you, for a time directly related to the struggle to get the item.

Required Memberships:

Edmodo: You will be required to access the class website on Edmodo (www.edmodo.com). There will be important class information and assignments contained on this website.

Helpful Resources:

Class webpage: www.mottbiology.weebly.com