

Biology Syllabus

Spring 2023

Instructor

Andrew King

Email

aking@jasper.k12.al.us

Background

M.S. Secondary Education
Samford University

B.S. Biological Sciences
The University of Southern Mississippi

School Phone Number

(205) 221-9277

Planning Time

3rd Block (11:30am – 1:20pm)

Class Description

Biology is a course that includes all information about living things and how they work. I absolutely love biology because it is ultimately relevant to your life in a myriad of ways. Every day in this class you will come home with a new appreciation for how a small part of life works. We will start the semester with the small things that apply to all life. We will talk about cells, biochemistry, genetics, and then move on to the bigger topics like evolution and ecology.

Expectations

My goal in this course is to get you hyped about biology! And the best part is, there are so many opportunities to do so. We are all living things and we interact with living things every single day. I hope that you can become amazed at all of the life that is around you. My goal is to show you something that you find amazingly cool. I guarantee you that there is something in this class that is going to blow your mind.

What I expect from you is for you to go in headfirst on every topic so that you can see how relevant biology is to you, your community, and the entire world.

Outside of that, I expect you to turn in assignments by the (generous) due dates, to be honest about your assignments (never cheat), and be as positive as you can be in my classroom. If you can do this for me, then I can promise you a fun semester.

Goals for you by the end of the semester:

You will be able to:

- a. Modify or affirm preexisting scientific conceptions through experimentation and using other evidence.
- b. Use laboratory equipment properly.
- c. Find a part of biology that intrigues you.
- d. Learn about the living things in Jasper and Alabama in general.
- d. Learn about how the world works.

Course Materials

All learning materials will be provided to you. Many of these will be provided digitally, so bringing your laptop every day is a MUST. I may penalize your grade due to you not bringing your laptop to complete work. You must also have a writing utensil and paper for note taking and assignments. We will be using Schoology extensively in this class.

Course Overview

Unit	Topic
1	Biochemistry
2	Cytology
3	Cellular Energy
4	Genetics
5	Heredity
6	Evolution
7	Ecology

Every unit will consist of classwork, daily lecture quizzes, and a unit test. The unit tests will cover all topics learned in that unit and will compose of much of the score for the course. All classwork and quizzes will be due on the day of the unit exam. I do not typically assign homework beyond finishing what was not done in the classroom.

Grading Policy

As previously stated, all assignments from one unit will be due on the day of the unit exam. **I will not allow make up work past that point except for extraordinary situations at my discretion.** There will be opportunities for bonus credit in this class. This may be in the form of bonus questions on tests or extra effort points given on assignments. I give out extra points when students go above and beyond on assignments. However, I will NOT provide extra credit assignments at the end of the semester. **If you find yourself with a failing grade, you are responsible for finding out what you are missing and remedying the problem.** If you happen to be failing at the end of the semester, prepare to meet with me to find out what your options are. If you are unable to turn in assignments to bring your grade up, your parents will be notified.

If you miss an exam due to an unexcused absence, you may not be allowed to make up that exam. It is your responsibility to come to school every day. If you have an excused absence, you must meet with me immediately to take the exam. You may not wait to make it up later in the semester.

Cheating Policy

I do not accept cheating. **There will be serious penalties for all parties involved if cheating is discovered.** If you decide to turn in all your work at the last minute, I will be thoroughly comparing it to the work of your peers. If your assignment is a copy of one of your fellow students', both of you will receive a 0 for that assignment.

When exams or quizzes are taken, phones will be kept away entirely. Using your phone for any reason while taking an exam or quiz will result in a zero. Tests will be given on Schoology. For that reason, being on any other webpage during a test will result in a zero.

I intend for every single one of you to get excited about science and make a great grade in my class. You may make a bad grade on a test every now and then. That is perfectly fine and will be met with opportunities for grade improvement. Making zeros from cheating will hurt your grade far more.

Cellphone Policy

Cellphones are a root of distraction and defiance. They are allowed in two places, either on the perimeter of the room on a charger, or in the phone caddy. Your phone should not even be on your person because it will distract you. If I see or hear your phone at all, it will be taken up and may be given to the office for your parents to come pick up.

Brief Summary of Syllabus

- Bring your laptop every day. We mostly use Schoology in this class.
- There are 7 units in this class with each having a test.
- Tests count for a ton of your final grade.
- *Everything* is due on the day of the unit test. Nothing will be accepted afterwards.
- If you miss a test due to an *unexcused* absence, you will receive a 0 for it.
- If you are failing the class your parents will be notified.
- Cheating is NOT tolerated and will result in 0s for everyone involved.
- You should never use your cellphone in my class. It will be confiscated.