

Warwick Valley High School
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Living Environment

Course Description

Welcome to our Living Environment class! I look forward to our year together and studying the fascinating truths about the world. Biology means the study of life. In this course, we will investigate the interrelationships of all living organisms and the environment. Topics you will learn about include the characteristics of life, basic biochemistry, cell biology, cell reproduction, human systems, genetics, evolution, and ecology.

Why Study Science?

This course is intended to prove that science does have relevance in your life! It is hoped that your educational experience will inspire you to seek further education and employment in science-related fields.

Even for those who do not plan to pursue science-related careers, knowing science facts and principles can make your life safer, healthier, and more enjoyable. Science knowledge can protect you from misleading advertisements, questionable theories, diseases, and dangerous organisms.

Overall, as future citizens, you will gain the knowledge needed to discuss and make informed decisions on issues in science that will impact your daily lives and the society you belong to.

How to Be Successful

This class is a Regents course. It requires lots of dedication and effort towards assignments and study time. You will get out of this class only what you are willing to put into it! Several important expectations for behavior are outlined here.

- **Be Responsible!** If you are absent, you will be responsible to find out what you missed and hand in the work as discussed by your teacher.
- **Be Respectful!** Treat others like you would like to be treated. Listen when others are talking, follow directions, and raise your hand during class discussions.
- **Be on Time!** You will be expected to be in your seat when the bell rings. Students will be dismissed at the end of class by the teacher, not the bell.
- **Be Prepared!** Each day you should come with your required materials
- **Be Safe!** Your full attention during the laboratory activities is important for your safety and others. No food or drinks are allowed in the classroom during activities and experiments.

Classroom Management

Absent

- It is the student's responsibility to obtain all make-up assignments upon their return to class. This can be arranged with the teacher after class or after school. It CAN NOT be done prior to class. Students will be given sufficient time to complete the work as arranged by the teacher.

Lateness

- All unexcused lateness must get a pass from the attendance office and sign in on the late attendance sheet in class.
- Repeated unexcused lateness to class will result in a detention(s).

Cutting

- Cutting class will not be excused for any reason.
- You will receive a zero for class participation, any assignment, quiz, and/or exam for that day. No make-up will be allowed.

Participating in class

- All students are expected to raise their hands for asking and answering questions. After 2 verbal warnings, a detention(s) may be given.

Remaining in Your Seats

- All students are expected to remain seated during class. Disposal of garbage can be done when class is dismissed. E.g. tissues, paper, ect.

Class Dismissal

- Students are expected to remain in their seats until dismissed by the teacher not the bell.

Cheating, plagiarism, and allowing others to copy work

- Will receive a zero for that exam or assignment with parent notified.

Failure to obey reasonable request of staff

- Failure to obey instructions will result in detention(s). E.g. put cell phone, iPod away

**** All policy and procedure rules will be followed as outlined in the Code of Conduct handbook with parent notified.**

Units of Study

1 st & 2 nd Quarter	3 rd & 4 th Quarter
Scientific Method & Graphing Life Processes & Characteristics of Life Basic Chemistry Biochemistry/Organic Compounds Plant & Animal Cells Cell Transport Photosynthesis/Cellular Respiration Human Body Systems	Continue Human Body Systems Asexual Reproduction/Mitosis Meiosis/Human Reproduction/Dev. Genetics/ Biotechnology Classification Theory of Evolution Ecology Human Impact on the Environment

Course Objectives

The student will be able to:

- Gain a thorough knowledge of the fundamental terminology, concepts, and processes of living systems.
- Work independently and in cooperative groups to enhance their understanding of biological principles.
- Acquire appropriate knowledge of basic laboratory skills for scientific activities and investigations.
- Demonstrate ability to gather, record, and interpret data from laboratory findings.
- Gain experience in seeking information from various resources (texts, journals, magazines, newspapers) to develop awareness about social concerns and the advancement of science-related issues.
- Develop an appreciation for the diversity of nature and organisms.

Required Materials

Lecture Text:

Miller, K. R., & Levine, J. (2004). *Biology*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall.

Lab Text:

None. Handouts will be provided.

Recommended Student Materials:

- (1) 2" or 3" 3 Ring Binder
- Dividers for binder (Make sections in binder for: Handouts, Notes, H.W.)
- (1) Pack of Colored markers and crayons (Leave at home to work on projects)
- Pens (black or blue), Pencils, and (1) Highlighter

Grading Policy for the Science Department

Make every effort to take tests on the scheduled test day. Reading from the assigned textbook prior to class discussion will help you better achieve success in the different grading assessments outlined below.

Tests = 55%

Quizzes = 25%

Labs = 10%

Participation/Homework = 10%

Projects = counted as one exam or quiz grade

Extra credit = 1 per quarter provided enough time is available

Other Assessments Throughout the Year

***Grading calculations are reviewed yearly by administration**

- Benchmarks (Midterms)
- Regents exams

Tests, Quizzes, and Projects (80% of quarterly grade)

- All exams will consist of multiple-choice questions. Most exams will have a second section with short answer questions.
- Quizzes may or may not be announced.
- Projects maybe individual, paired, or grouped (3-4) (at the discretion of the teacher)

Class Participation & Homework (10%)

- Homework assignments will be checked in a variety of ways such as spot checks, collection, discussion, or as a quiz. Grading for HW: 2pts-full credit for 100% completion, 1pt.- ½ credit for 50% completion, 0 pts.- less than ½ completed or not done.
- Homework assignments are designed to reinforce learning material and prepare you to successfully understand the next area of study. HW answers should be student's own words even when working with another student. HW will be written on the board and posted on www.pearsonsuccessnet.com.
- Absent students are responsible for completing missed HW and will be given time to complete assignments. Students **MUST** show teacher completed HW to receive full HW credit. Failure to show the completed HW within 1-2 days upon return will result in a 0 for that HW assignment.
- Students working on their homework while answers are being reviewed in class will automatically receive a **zero** for that assignment.
- Class participation is considered to be actively participating in class work and discussions.

Lab (10%)

This class is designed as an investigative course to offer students a variety of "hands on" experiences. The laboratory activities will include the practical application of scientific concepts to reinforce lecture objectives.

- Admission to the New York State Regents exam in June is contingent upon satisfactory completion of 1200 minutes of laboratory work. Therefore, attendance is critical to meet this requirement.
- The 1200 minutes of laboratory work includes 4 mandated NYS labs (each worth 135 minutes) and many additional labs to make-up the remaining lab minutes.
- Lab periods are scheduled once every 4 letter days.
- Full laboratory credit is earned when labs are completed and handed in on time. Two grading rubrics will be provided for you.
- All laboratory reports are due **two** days after the lab day unless otherwise specified by the teacher. Late labs will receive point deductions. Late labs received the week prior to the closing of a marking period will be graded and then receive ½ credit for that lab provided the lab is fully completed. Labs received after the assigned quarter will receive a zero as a grade for that lab and only be accepted for Regents credit as minutes.
- Regents credit is earned when labs are completed and submitted to teacher.
- Absent students must make-up the lab within 1-2 weeks to receive full credit.
- There will be a **check point** prior to the end of each quarter (2 weeks before the quarter ends) to ensure that all students are up-to-date with the required NYS lab work. Student names will be posted in the classroom at this time, indicated on the progress reports sent home each quarter till completed, and/or verbally informed.
- All graded labs will remain in a locked file cabinet in the classroom. Students are encouraged to check their grades with the teacher so improvement can be made as needed. This can be done before school starts or after school. Students are responsible to arrange an appointment with the teacher.

Help Sessions

I will be available after school by appointment. It will be your responsibility to schedule an appointment with the teacher. Recommendations for extra help will be advised on the progress report/report cards.

Availability Hours:

- ~ **Parents** may contact me via school email with any concerns throughout the year.
- ~ **Lecture review or practice test-taking skills** - written on the board 2-3 days in advance for after school help. Days may vary.
- ~ **Laboratory make-up** – a specific unit lunch day will be written on the board as the designated period to make-up labs.

(tear off bottom & return)

I, _____ (student) & _____ (parent/guardian)
have read and understand the student expectations, grading policy, and homework
policy for Mrs. DeBiase's class for the 2016-2017 school year.

Signature (student) _____ Date _____

Signature (parent) _____ Date _____

Parent email _____

Parent contact phone number _____