

Greenville Technical Charter High School
Honors Biology Syllabus 2024-2025

Text: Biology (Biggs et al.)

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Standards: South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Science Standards

Office Hours:

- **Science office hours are scheduled for every Thursday from 2:50 – 3:30 pm (Room 104, Building 120)**
 - If you have a *legitimate* conflict with the time frame for science office hours (doctor's appointment, carpool issues, etc), you need to reach out and schedule a different time to see me for office hours. *Practices or meetings for a club, sport, or other extracurricular commitments do NOT take priority over academics. You cannot participate in clubs or sports unless you are passing all of your classes so you should be in office hours every week until your grade is a 75 or higher.*

You should attend office hours if you 1) have missed biology class for any reason, 2) to do test and quiz corrections, 3) to ask questions or clarify class material, 4) to make up/turn in any missing work, and 5) to get extra help if needed. **The purpose of office hours is to help every student attain mastery in Biology.** If you are below a 75 in Biology and are not regularly attending office hours to improve your grade and turn in assignments, you will not be eligible for extra credit opportunities during Quarter 4.

Personal Mission:

To empower students with the skills and abilities they need to become scientifically-literate, knowledgeable, and informed decision makers. My personal goal is to help students understand the basic tenets of biology and how the scientific method and biology itself are embedded into nearly every facet of our daily lives.

Honors Biology Course Description:

This course is designed for students desiring a formal background in biology. It includes laboratory work and extensive study of biological principles. Course content encompasses interrelationships of living things, levels of biological organization, human biology, social implications, bioethics, cell biology, biochemistry, and genetics. Taking this course for honors credit will require students to develop and hone their analytical skills, critical thinking, synthesis and writing skills. We will also delve further into various branches of biology, and couple this with research-intensive biology assignments throughout course. We will also have more opportunities for hands-on experience in various lab activities both inside and outside of the classroom.

Course Goals/Objectives:

South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Science Standards are taught in order for students to gain a better understanding of the biological world. This course will not cover any material that is not based in SC Science Standards as determined by the SC Department of Education.

Materials Needed:

Students will need a 3-ring binder with a copy of the class syllabus, a set of dividers (for class notes, and returned work), pens or pencils as well as colored pencils/pens/highlighters, and notebook paper. You will need these supplies every day in class. Leave your book at home unless otherwise announced on Google Classroom.

Assessments:

- I. Tests: Traditional tests will include a variety of questioning styles: true-false, multiple choice and completion. Each test will include items such as: short answer questions, labeled drawings, problem solving or graphing (depending on the content being studied).
- II. Quizzes: Quiz may be section wise or chapter wise or may be in the form of a POP Quiz to ensure students daily performance; quizzes may also be designed to review what they students have learned.
- III. Homework/Classwork: Homework assignments will be given regularly as well as in-class work for students. This will consist of practice worksheets, readings, annotations, and other supplemental information relevant to the current unit.
- IV. Projects:
 1. Labs/Activities: Labs and lab activities will be completed in groups; lab reports will be assessed individually or as a group or both depending on the nature of lab work.
 2. Group work: All students will be expected to work in pairs or groups on discussions, presentations and other classwork.
- V. Exams: A comprehensive exam will be given at the end of each semester. Additionally students are required to take a state mandated End of Course Exam (EOC) that will count as 20% of their final grade.
- VI. Participation: Biology, like all classes, requires that students are **ACTIVE LEARNERS** in the classroom environment. This means that students should ask questions, participate in class and group discussions, and should not engage in distracting or disrespectful behaviors during class (e.g., cell phone use, talking, laying head on desk, sleeping, etc). Students will earn a weekly participation grade through asking or answering questions, participating in class discussions, acting accordingly during all class and lab activities, and actively taking notes during lectures.

Late Work Policy:

Minor Assignments (Homework, Classwork):

- 10 points off for each day the assignment is late – no late work can be submitted beyond five days after the due date unless special permission has been granted for extenuating circumstances.

Major Assignments (Test, Projects, Labs)

- Students have 5 school days to complete any missed major assignments.

***Following an absence, students should immediately see me to reschedule a test or quiz and get any other materials they may have missed. *The only time that late work may be turned in after the end of a quarter is due to a medically excused absence.* ***

Make-Up Work: Students have five days to make up any missed work. After five days, a **zero** will be entered into the grade book and the late work policy above will apply.

Grading:

Assignment Weights:

- Tests: 20%
- Projects: 20%
- Homework: 15%
- Quizzes: 15%
- Classwork: 15%
- Labs: 15%

All work must have the following criteria met or it will be returned for a **REDO**.

- First and Last name must be on EVERY paper.
- If the assignment is a lab report, the correct format must be followed.
- You must show all work (especially if you are working on problems).
- You must include units when necessary and adhere to the rules of significant digits.
- All work must be clearly written and legible

Grading Scale:

90 – 100	A
80 – 89	B
70 – 79	C
60 – 69	D
Below 60	F

Mastery: In order for students to attain mastery level knowledge of course content, students are able to make test and quiz corrections, for a maximum score of a 75, during science office hours or other pre-designated times. Students are also provided with guided notes so they can quickly and effectively write down material and stay on track during class. Students are able to attend extra review sessions and complete EOC review packets to master biology content before taking the End of Course (EOC) Exam. Extra help during office hours, one-on-one time with teacher, supplemental handouts, and some peer tutoring can also be arranged to help students master the material.

Technology Policies:

- Phones – phones should not be out unless I am collecting them before a test or have otherwise specified that they are acceptable to be in use. Students will receive one verbal warning before the phone is confiscated and given to administration. Any future issue will result in the student placing their phone in a safe location every day during my class, for the duration of the school year. Your first homework assignment for the year is to send me an email with the word ‘phone’ as the subject so that I know you read and understand the technology policy in my classroom. Any instances of

filming or taking pictures of classmates or teachers will result in an immediate referral and a parent conference.

- Headphones/Earbuds – Students should not enter my classroom with earbuds or other technology in/on their ears, unless specified through an accommodation plan. When using classroom devices, all students are required to use headphones with an auxiliary cord
- Chromebooks – Students who come to class without their device will lose half of their participation credit for the week. Showing up to class unprepared/without necessary materials will result in the same penalty.

Classroom Rules: Students are expected to follow the rules and procedures as specified in the Greenville Technical Charter High School handbook. Other general rules area:

1. Be kind – to yourself, your peers, your teachers, and your materials
2. Treat all property (yours and others) with respect
3. Respect the right of every student to receive a free, appropriate public education
4. Take responsibility for your own learning
5. Be your own best advocate

Class Consequences: One or more steps may be skipped, depending on the severity of the infraction.

- Non-verbal warning
- Verbal warning
- One-on-one discussion with student, detention, parent contact
- Phone call to parent/guardian
- Deferred referral for repeated classroom issues
- Sent out of class to administration (immediate referral)
- Conference with parent/guardian and administration

Laboratory Safety Contract – Sign and Turn In!

Safety will be stressed in both the classroom and laboratory. Each student is required to read and sign a lab safety contract prior to admission to any laboratory exercise. A parent or guardian must also sign this contract, and return it to the teacher. Some common guidelines are listed below. More detailed safety procedures will be covered with all students prior to the first lab exercise and reinforced throughout the year

- Eating or drinking is strictly prohibited in the lab. Candy and chewing gum are also prohibited in the lab. There are no exceptions.
- Hands should be kept from contacting the face, mouth, eyes and nose while in the lab. A small amount of a chemical may find its way to the hands, and cause injury to these sensitive areas of the body. Hands must be washed just prior to leaving the laboratory area. Soap and warm water are to be used.
- Gloves, aprons, lab coats, goggles and other protective equipment will be used where appropriate, and as designated by the teacher.
- Contact lenses are not recommended during laboratory exercises. If contacts must be worn special goggles are required, and will be provided by the school as needed.
- Students will be briefed on all chemical hazards and appropriate safety precautions using Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS). An MSDS for each chemical used in the lab will be readily available in accordance with Federal regulations (OSHA).
- Any accident or injury, no matter how small, must be reported to the teacher immediately.

Student Name: _____

Parent/Guardian's Name: _____

Parent/Guardian information:

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

Do you prefer to be contacted by email or phone? _____

Please sign and date below showing that you have read the syllabus and will abide by the class policies for Dr. Howard's classroom. Also, please note that by signing, you are giving your permission to have your child's picture and/or work be published on the class or school's website. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Please return this form to class as soon as possible.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____