

Greenville Technical Charter High School

Honors Marine Biology Syllabus 2024-2025

Text: Marine Biology (Castro & Huber)

Instructor: Dr. Joanna Howard

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Standards: South Carolina State Standards and Common Core Science Standards

Office Hours: This is where you go for test and quiz corrections, to ask questions or clarify material, to catch up on work if you have missed school, and 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, you will not be eligible for extra credit assignments during Quarter 4.

- **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.*

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 science and how the scientific method functions in our daily lives.

Marine Biology Course Description:

This course is designed for students desiring a formal background in marine biology. It includes laboratory work and extensive study of marine organisms, ecosystems, and environmental issues. Course content encompasses interrelationships of living things, levels of biological organization, marine biology systems, marine pollution, and social implications. Taking this course will enable students to develop and hone their analytical, critical thinking, synthesis and writing skills. Students will be supported in achieving the goal of mastery learning through one-on-one teaching, peer and teacher tutoring, test and quiz corrections, and hands-on learning.

Course Goals/Objectives:

The goal of this course is to educate students on the natural world living below the surface of the world's ocean. We will learn about the history and development of marine exploration, flora and fauna of the sea, as well as current issues threatening the ocean, marine habitats, and water quality. Students will be supported in their goal of achieving mastery of material through office hours, one-on-one teaching, peer and teacher tutoring, as well as hands on activities and projects.

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).

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. **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.
- IV. **Exams:** A comprehensive exam will be given at the end of each semester.
- V. **Participation:** Marine 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.

Late Work:

Minor Assignments:

10 points off for each day the assignment is late. Students can complete assignments through the end of the unit for a maximum of a 70.

Major Assignments:

10 points off for each day the assignment is late. Students can complete the assignment after the third late day for a maximum of a 70 until a week prior to grades being due.

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:

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 legible.

Assignment Weights:

- Tests: 25%
- Projects: 25%
- Homework: 15%
- Quizzes: 15%
- Classwork: 10%
- Labs: 10%

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 can also request extra credit assignments

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. 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.

My Class Rules:

1. Act in a safe and healthy way.
2. Treat all property with respect.
3. Respect the rights and needs of others.
4. Take responsibility for your own learning.

Class Consequences: (depending on the severity of the violation, steps may be skipped)

- Non-verbal warning
- Verbal warning
- One-on-one discussion or lunch detention
- Email or call home
- Referral or parent conference

Laboratory Safety Contract

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, understand, and will abide by the class policies for Dr. Howard's Honors Biology class. 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. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Please return this form to class as soon as possible.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____