Greenville Technical Charter High School

Biology Syllabus 2024-2025

**Instructor:** Mr. Aaron Merritt

**Room:** 111

**Textbook:** *Biology* (Glencoe)

**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, biochemistry, and genetics. Taking this course will enable students to develop and hone their analytical, critical thinking, synthesis and writing skills.

**Course Goals/Objectives:**

South Carolina State Biology and Common Core Science Standards will be taught for students to gain a better understanding of the biological world.  My personal goal for the class is to help students understand the basic tenets of science and how the scientific method functions in our daily lives, while also empowering them with the skills and abilities they need to become scientifically-literate, knowledgeable, and informed decision makers.

**Contact Information:** Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have regarding your student’s performance in this course.

* Email: [amerritt@staff.gtchs.org](mailto:amerritt@staff.gtchs.org) (*please allow 24 hours for a reply*)
* Work Phone: (864) 250-8844 *(for business purposes only; conversations may be documented)*
* Office Hours: Thursdays 2:50 – 3:30 PM

Please encourage your student to advocate on their own behalf regarding any missing work or low-test scores. This takes maturity, patience, and sincere persistence- even if your student does not consider science their strongest subject- this is important.

**Assessments:** Students will be given a variety of summative and formative assessments to practice content skills and demonstrate their mastery of concepts.

* 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), etc. Test items may be cumulative.
* Quizzes: May be by section or chapter (and may be unannounced) to ensure students are prepared. Quizzes may also be designed to review what the students have learned in prior units.
* Projects:

1. Labs/Activities: Labs and other activities may be completed in groups; lab reports will be assessed individually, as a group, or both depending on the nature of lab work.
2. Group work: Students may also be expected to work in pairs or groups on discussions, presentations, and other classwork.

* Exams: A comprehensive exam will be given at the end of each semester. Students are also traditionally required to take a state-mandated End of Course Exam (EOC) that will count as 20% of their final grade.
* 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 or lose points for their participation preparedness, and this component will factor into their grade each quarter.

**Late Work:**

* Minor Assignments: 10 points are taken off each day an assignment is late.

Students may complete assignments through the end of that specific unit for partial credit.

* For specific assignments where the answers are posted, the student may not receive credit for that assignment once answers are shared.
* Major Assignments: For each day an assignment is late, 10% of the final grade will be deducted.

I will accept major assignments up to but not exceeding two weeks late and an upper limit of 30% will be applied to any assignment submitted past seven days late.

Following any absence, students should immediately confer with their instructor to reschedule assessments and receive any materials they may have missed.

*Late work turned in after the end of the quarter is unacceptable unless the student has an excused absence.*

**Grades:**

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

* Full name and class section 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 and adhere to the rules of significant digits when necessary.
* All work must be legible.

**Grading Scale**:

90 – 100            A

80 – 89 B

70 – 79              C

60 – 69              D

Below 60     F

**Mastery:** For students to attain GTCHS mastery level scores they may correct tests according to certain criteria (for a maximum score of 75) during pre-designated times.

Extra help, one-on-one time with teacher, and some peer tutoring can also be arranged to help students master the material during Office Hours or other pre-designated times.

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

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.    Be responsible for your own learning.

Class Consequences#

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

I specifically request that students refrain from

delaying, disrupting, or distracting from

my instruction, their learning, and the progress of their peers.