

AAC Biology Course Syllabus

Ms. Staley

Description

The design of this course is to present an in-depth analysis of biological concepts from a molecular and biochemical approach to a larger prospective on evolution, environment and whole body systems. Emphasis is placed on synthesis, evaluation, critical thinking, and laboratory and process skills.

Prerequisites

- A. The student possesses reading comprehension skills at a level that allows:
 - Independent identification of main ideas
 - Correlation of current information to previously studied concepts
 - Conceptual vocabulary development
 - Pre-assessment and evaluation in the form of notes, labs, projects, quizzes and tests
- B. The student demonstrates prior knowledge of basic chemical principles and/or demonstrates the ability to quickly master basic chemistry concepts related to the study of Biology.
- C. The student is able to produce well-written (including spelling and grammar) essay responses that involve synthesis, application and/or evaluation of concepts.
- D. The student establishes and maintains a pattern of self-guided study that is structured, regular, and paced.
- E. The student displays appropriate organizational and time management skills.

Major topics

- **Biomolecules and Cells**
- **Nucleic Acids and Protein Synthesis**
- **Cell Cycle**
- **Genetic Diversity**
- **Evolution**
- **Interdependence within Ecosystems**
- **Processes in Plants**
- **Processes in Animals**

Grading

Basic grading policies are based on district guidelines. The minimum number of grades (6 daily and 3 major), the weight of specific types of grades, and the grading periods are included in these guidelines. All other grading is at the discretion of the instructor. Most of our quizzes and tests will have some written component. We will generally have more than the minimum number of grades.

Late Work - FSMS Policy: 1 day: -10, 2 days: -20, 3 days: -30, 4+ days: 50 max

Retesting

Retesting is a privilege that is available for students making below a 75 on a major grade. In order to retest, A) the student must sign-up to take the retest before the deadline, B) the student must complete the required review assignment. After taking the retest at the scheduled time, the retest grade will replace the original test grade. The highest grade possible is a 75.

Extra Credit:

There is no requirement to give extra credit in any course. However, if a student does well on a unit test in PreAP Biology, the teacher may replace the last quiz grade taken in that unit with equivalent of the test grade if it is lower than the test score – this possibility will be at the discretion of the instructor, and it may not be available for every unit test.

Textbook

Savvas Biology (This is the primary reference; however, others will be used) All biology students have online access to this textbook. The app is located inside the Clever App. Reading will be assigned every week!!

GPA AND ATTENDANCE FOR HIGH SCHOOL COURSES: as stated in FBISD handbook:

GPA: it is important to understand that you will not see in skyward or schoology the 5+ that is added to AAC high school courses but it will show on your transcript for high school. Please reference the district handbook for a detailed explanation.

ATTENDANCE: This is a high school course! Attendance for the course each day is important. Attendance: No more than 8 absences for the semester, 3 tardies equal 1 absence for exemption purposes. The following recorded absences do not count as one of the 8 absences a student is allowed for exam exemptions:

- Present but not in class (example: in the counselor's office during the period)
- School sponsored curricular activity and/or extra-curricular activity
- UIL activity

Tutorials:

Thursdays 8:15 am to 8:50 am

Fridays 4:15 pm to 4:45 pm

FSMS has a list of private tutors for hire as well – you can check the front desk and the counselors office for that list and contact information. Mrs. Figueredo and Mrs. McCallum are the two main private biology tutors on the FSMS list.

MATERIALS NEEDED FOR CLASS:

- 1 Composition Book– 100 pages
- Pencils- mechanical or traditional
- Color Pencils
- Highlighter
- 1 box latex or vinyl gloves for dissections (at least four pairs for dissections)
- 2 packs of index cards