MVLA
2024-25
COURSE INFORMATION SHEET

Course Title: Biology
School: Los Altos High School
UC/CSU requirement: Meets A-G requirements
Textbook and/or other learning resources: Biology by Miller/Levine (use as home resource), Google Classroom or Canvas, 8.5"x11" Notebook, Binder, Pen/Pencil, Charged Computer

Course Description/Student Learning Outcomes:

The goal of this biology course is to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships between organisms and their environment. Topics include the nature of science, characteristics of living things, biochemistry and energetics, cell structure and function, evolution, Mendelian and molecular genetics, animal systems, and ecology. Through this course students will demonstrate their ability to:

- engage in *NGSS* science and engineering practices to design and perform investigations, solve problems and communicate ideas.
- collect, analyze and evaluate scientific data
- apply mathematical concepts and construct models to understand natural phenomena.
- identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made.
- evaluate the importance of living organisms in the cyclical progression of the natural world.
- learn about organisms through firsthand observations and test concepts and principles that are introduced in the classroom.
- explore specific problems with a depth not easily achieved otherwise, and gain an awareness of the importance of confounding variables that exist in the "real world".
- engage in dialogue and research with classmates to build listening and public speaking skills.

Course Outline/Units of Study/CTE Industry Standards (If applicable to your course):

Unit 0: Scientific Basic Skills
Unit 1: Ecology
Unit 2: Biomolecules and Homeostasis
Unit 3: Photosynthesis and Cellular Respiration
Unit 4: DNA and Enzymes
Unit 5: Biotechnology
Unit 6: Cell Cycle & Genetics
Unit 7: Evolution
Unit 8: Climate Change

Assessment and Grading (BP 5121 / AR 5121): To ensure that every student has an equal opportunity to demonstrate their learning, the course instructors implement aligned grading practices and common assessments with the same frequency.

1. Grading categories and their percentage weights*:
Weight of assignments and/or components of the grade is approximately:

10%: Classwork & Homework
40%: Labs & Projects
40%: Quizzes & Tests
10%: Final Assessment

2. Achievement evidence collected within each grading category:
Students will be informed of the aligned quantity, weight, and due dates of assignments/assessments in each grading category as much in advance as possible. Classwork, homework, tests, quizzes, as well as participation will all contribute to the overall grade earned by the student.

3. Grading scales:
A = 100%-90% C = 79%-70%
B = 89%-80 D = 69%-60 F = 59% and below

4. Homework/outside of class practices (AR 6154):
Homework could include: Actively Learn, Nearpod, Flipgirds, nature journals, discussion boards, video quizzes, reading, taking notes, worksheets, projects, lab reports, researching topics online, and/or studying for tests. Due date for assignments will be posted in Canvas. Homework is given for enrichment and to practice key concepts and preparation for assessments. Homework can be expected 2-3 times per week and take about 30 minutes for most students to complete.

5. Excused absence make up practices (Education Code 48205(b)):
When **absent**, it is YOUR responsibility to find out what activities and concepts you missed as you are responsible for knowing all material covered for the assessments. **Assignments and announcements are all posted in the learning management system (Google Classroom or Canvas). Please make sure to check these resources during your absence and email the instructor with questions. All assignments during distance learning are to be completed electronically.**

Missed quizzes, tests and labs- use ACT (Academic Collaborative Time) on Wednesdays and Fridays to make up work. Your work must be made up within a week of the absence. If the quiz is not made up in time, your percentage from the same unit test will be applied to the missing quiz score. Make-up tests (for excused absences only) may be given in class on the day that you return, or at the discretion of the teacher. If you are absent the day before a test and miss the classroom review, you will still be required to take the test when you return. Assignments due on the day of an absence are required to be submitted the same day the student returns to the class. Completion of work assigned on the day of the absence is due in the number of days missed, unless the assignment was given prior to the absence (for instance, a test will be given on the day you return to class). Students should NOT miss lab days. Lab experiments take time to set up and to do, therefore if you are absent, even if it is excused, you may not be able to make it up. You are still responsible for the material covered in the lab. If you have a doctor or dentist appointment on block days, change it. These appointments are made months in advance and you know your schedule. Students who fail to show up for a make-up test or lab will not have the opportunity to make it up again and will earn a score of zero.

6. Academic integrity violation practices (LAHS Academic Integrity Policy / MVHS Academic Integrity Policy): It is expected that you will not cheat, lie, plagiarize or commit other acts of academic dishonesty. Examples of cheating and other academic integrity violations can be found in the LAHS Academic Integrity Policy. Check with your teachers if you are unsure or unclear about his/her expectations regarding the use of the Internet. Students **caught cheating will earn a score of zero**. **There will not be an opportunity to redo the assessment. The violation will also be reported to the student's assistant principal.**

Please note that much of the work we do in Biology involves collaboration. While students often work collaboratively on laboratory and other assignments, each student is required to submit a report written in his/her own words for credit. "Work together, but don't write together" is a good rule of thumb.

7. Late work practices:
Homework, classroom assignments and labs for a particular unit *will* be accepted after the due date, *but only up until the unit exam*. A deduction of 10% will be taken off the earned score as a late penalty unless arrangements are made in advance (email your teacher as needed). If a student decides to retake a unit exam (see below) late assignments will be accepted up to the time they retake the unit exam. Labs and projects must be turned in on time to have the opportunity for peer editing and teacher feedback, allowing for a resubmission based on the feedback.

8. Revision practices:

One test retake opportunity will be available for each unit test. Test retakes must be taken during ACT within a week after the return of the tests. Lab reports turned in on time can be revised and resubmitted within one week after the return of the lab report.

9. Extra credit practices:

No extra credit will be available.

10. Additional grading practices:

Grade Book Update Policy: grades will be posted every 2-3 weeks on the Student Information System (SIS). Please allow some time for the instructor to process lab reports and exams before inquiring about student performance. Proficiency is determined by how well a student achieves the expectations for an assignment. Both summative and formative assessments will be utilized.

11. LMS Used:

All teachers use Canvas

Instructors' email addresses:

Ms. Hambrick linda.hambrick@mvla.net
Ms. Pyle elizabeth.pyle@mvla.net
Ms. Schramm christina.schramm@mvla.net
Ms. Venugopal archana.venugopal@mvla.net

Additional information:

Teacher	Room Number
Linda Hambrick	**706**
Elizabeth Pyle	**707**
Kristi Schramm	**704**
Archana Venugopal	**711**