

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

PCB Biology Level 4 is a honors college preparatory course in which students will learn about biology, the study of the mechanisms of life. This course is rigorous and most students will find the content and amount of material covered to be challenging. Learning about biology can be incredibly interesting and rewarding if the proper steps are taken to ensure that the material is understood. Students will succeed if they spend time studying, concentrate, and use multiple learning approaches. We will focus on techniques to help students succeed in these areas.

There are three main areas of biology on which we will focus: evolution and ecology, molecular and cellular biology, and anatomy and physiology. A more detailed outline is below:

- themes of evolution and ecology
- the scientific method
- characteristics of life
- chemistry refresher and biological molecules
- energetics and metabolism
- cell division
- the gene to protein
- genetics
- evolution
- speciation
- phylogeny and systematics
- plant structure and reproduction
- animal phyla
- human anatomy and physiology (with dissection of fetal pig)

We will learn by taking notes, having discussions, performing laboratories and participating in activities that reinforce the material and help us ask new questions. Additionally, students will write lab reports and be tested on the material with quizzes and exams.

While the course is difficult, many past biology students have been able to succeed in this course while participating in athletics, performing arts, publications, clubs, student government, and so on. The key to success will be in your maturity and motivation, your ability to organize your life, set priorities, and discipline yourself to constantly keep up with the work.

Text: Campbell, Reese, Mitchell, Taylor. *Biology--Concepts & Connections, 6th Ed.* Benjamin Cummings. 2009.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Behavior**

- There is no food allowed in this class. Drinks are allowed, but they must be in a covered container (screw on top), and must stay by student desks. Eating and drinking in lab will result in being referred to the adviser chair.
- Students must respect all people in the classroom at all times. Listen, and allow others to listen in class. If students come to class late, they should go directly to their seat and get to work quietly. If necessary, students will be warned to improve their behavior. Next a phone call to parents will occur. After the third offense, the student will be sent to the adviser chair.
- All students must respect the safety and the learning environment of this classroom at all times.
- All students must uphold the New Trier Academic Integrity Policy. Please refer to pages 38-39 in the New Trier 2008-2009 Calendar and Guidebook for detailed information.

### **Attendance.**

When absent, it is the students responsibility to make arrangements to make up missed work. The work is due the next day after returning from the absence. It is the student's responsibility to get notes or handouts that were missed from another student, the internet, or the teacher during office hours. Labs will be very difficult to make up, and missing them will jeopardize your grade. Please take all missed exams as soon as possible, but no later than 2 days after you return from an absence.

## **Materials.**

- A notebook. Throughout the course, you can expect to take lots of notes and receive lots of handouts. It will be helpful for you to organize your notebook chronologically.
- Pencils and ink pens (different colors are important).
- Color pencils. Buy a pack now!

## **Homework.**

To succeed in this course it is important students complete all assigned homework.

- Homework assignments: Your grade will be based on homework completion, and will be turned in electronically.
- Lab assignments: Most labs will be tested on exams and/or quizzes.

## **GRADING POLICY**

All assignments have a point value. Exams and quizzes (including homework quizzes) make up about 75% of your grade. The remaining 25% of your grade will be based on your lab grade (classroom activities and laboratories).

There are opportunities for **extra credit**, but students must make time to come in to discuss their needs during office hours before any extra credit will be made available to them. Extra credit is available one time per semester.

It is the responsibility of students to keep track of their grades by recording their scores. Every two to three weeks, I will post grades for students to check, and discuss grades with individuals. If you or your parents have questions about your grade please see me during office hours, email, or call. Keep all graded and un-graded work for this class for the entire year so that you can study.

Points will be totaled each quarter and again at the end of the semester. Semester grades are based on total points grade for both quarters, plus the final exam which will count 20% toward your semester grade. For each grading period and for the semester, a percentage will be calculated, and a letter grade will be assigned based on the following percentages rounded to the nearest whole hundredths place, and then to the nearest whole number (e.g. 89.49 will be a B+; 89.50 will be an A-):  
A, 93-100%; A-, 90-92%; B+, 87-89%; B, 83-86%; B-, 80-82%; C+, 77-79% C 73-76%; C-, 70-72%; D+ 67-69 %; D, 63-66%; D-, 60-62%; F, below 60%.

Grades will not be up for negotiation at the end of the semester under any circumstances.

## **HOW TO SUCCEED IN THIS CLASS**

Do really well on the little things (attendance, class participation and homework) and you will be able to do very well on the big things (exams, grades). Study every night by doing the homework assignment and trying to figure out concepts that you are struggling with. Try to study in a place that does not have a lot of distractions, like a quiet room at home or the library.

It is extremely important that you take detailed notes each day in class. It is not simply enough to write down what I write on the board or listen while you read an outline. You should write down everything that is explained in a way that will make sense to you when you study. Listen to what is said and watch what is written on the board and then add your own point of view to your notes. In addition, thoroughly reading your textbook and completing all chapter reviews, and practice quizzes in the book will be of great help. Students who do the best in biology complete the assigned reading, and then review using the book, handouts and notes before exams!

There is a course website at [www.biologyhuman.com](http://www.biologyhuman.com). Check it out for homework assignments, handouts, grades, and helpful information.

If you have questions that you cannot ask in class, need extra help with the course material, or just want to talk, please be sure to visit during my office hours. If it is really important, please make an appointment with me so that I will be sure to be available. I am located in the science department room 173 before from about 7:30 to 8:05 a.m, and during my free periods which are shown in the table below.

Pd	M	T	W	Th	F	
EB						
Ad	102	102	102	102	102	ADV
1	130		130			
2	130	105	130	105	130	BPCB4
3	130		130			
4	130	105	130	105	130	APB
5						
6						
7			AI			
8	130		130			
9	130	105	130	105	130	BPCB4

- My electronic mail is stillerb@newtrier.k12.il.us. This is the best way to get in touch with me outside of class or my office hours. I check my email several times per day, and will try to get back to you within 12 hours or so.
- I also will help you from home if you have instant messaging. This is a great way to ask quick questions, get some help. I am online quite frequently, so look for me, biologyhuman, on AOL Instant Messenger (AIM).
- My telephone number at New Trier High School is 847.784.6714 . Give me a call, and be sure to leave a detailed message.

**PLACE THIS SIGNED DOCUMENT IN THE BIOLOGY SECTION OF YOUR NOTEBOOK AND REFER TO IT WHEN YOU HAVE QUESTIONS.**

I understand the expectations and requirements for this class.

Student's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's/Guardian's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_