

# Biology Honors Syllabus, Grading Policy and Rules

2017-2018

C. Rosso

Welcome to Biology Honors! At the end of this year, you will be taking a state designed end of course exam to earn your biology credit. In order to succeed on this test, we will have to work together. As your teacher my responsibility will be to introduce the standards, design lessons around the standards to aid in your learning, use formatives to determine your understanding of the standard and then evaluating, with the help of summatives, your retention of the standards. Your responsibility, as the student, will be to come to class prepared with your notebook and writing utensils, keep an open, curious mind, ask clarifying questions, review the material nightly and give a 100% effort! I anticipate a successful year if we both fulfill our responsibilities!

## Scope of the class

During this year we will cover: Scientific investigation process; Properties of water and macromolecules; Cells and their structures as well as numerous cell processes such as Photosynthesis, Cellular Respiration, Protein synthesis, and Cell Division; Genetics and Biotechnology; Natural Selection; Classification of organisms; Nervous, Immune, and Reproductive systems of the Human Body. We will use a variety of activities to learn all these concepts. Each week we will complete one lab activity and we will have a lab during each nine weeks in which you design the lab, record the data and analyze the data as well as write up a complete lab report. We also will be participating in the Science Fair and will be working on those projects during selected Early Release Wednesdays.

## Weighting of classes

Each assignment will be awarded a certain number of points and will fall into one of three categories: diagnostic, formative or summative. **Diagnostics** will be weighted 0% and will be used to determine what is already known. **Formatives** will be weighted **40%** of the nine weeks and **summatives** will be **60%** of the nine week grade.

## Grading policy

You and your parents will be able to follow your grades by logging on to the Gradebook website. I will up- date grades weekly. I will typically up-date on a weekend so that by the following Monday your grade will reflect what you are currently earning. Please view the county's grading policy at the following link: [www.myvolusiaschools.org/vims/Documents/Secondary Grading Guidelines.pdf](http://www.myvolusiaschools.org/vims/Documents/Secondary%20Grading%20Guidelines.pdf)

## Formatives

Formatives will consist of worksheets, hand-outs, video summaries, quizzes and some labs. The majority of the formatives will be embedded in the interactive notebook and will be handed in every two weeks on a Friday. Due to students having extended time in handing in assignments, late work WILL NOT be accepted!

## Summatives

### Notebook

We will be using an Interactive Notebook in which all of your papers minus summatives will be found on assigned pages. This is an awesome tool to use in studying for your summatives as well as your end of course exam. You are required to bring this notebook each day as well as a writing utensil such as a pencil or a blue or black ink pen. The notebook should be a 70 page spiral notebook or a 5 subject notebook. These notebooks will be graded every two weeks and the grade will be a summative.

### Labs

Our class will be sharing a lab room with another science class and so will have a specific day on which we do labs. It is important that you are present in class on that day since lab materials may be time sensitive and may not be available for after school make up sessions. Please encourage parents to make doctor, dentist and/or orthodontist appointments after school. If you do miss a lab, you will have to write a two page report on the concept we studied. **We also have a certain dress code for lab day: no loose clothes, no open toed shoes!** If you come to class on lab day not dressed appropriately, you will be sent to another classroom to sit until we are finished with the lab. You will also receive the alternate assignment of writing a two page report.

One of our lab experiences consist of a field trip to Rose Bay in Port Orange. We will be doing a variety of hands on, in the field studies and experiments. This is a day in which students may use cast nets to identify various fish and/or invertebrates in Rose Bay, may do a bird walk and identify various birds, take a plant hike and identify why plants can exist in the Rose Bay environment. It is one of the highlights of the year. This is a field trip that is mandated by the county. It is our belief that the more the student does hands on, the greater the chance of higher EOC scores. If your parents are interested in being a chaperone, please let me know! If, for some reason, you is unable to go on that day, you will be required to make it up by doing several written lab reports on all of the experiments we conduct that day. This experience is considered a **summative** but **cannot** be re-done.

### Tests

Summatives will consist of tests, lab reports and projects. Our district has unit tests that they have designed to mirror the style of the End of Course (EOC) exam. These tests will be given at the end of the unit and will be cumulative for that unit. If you earn a 70% or lower, you will be eligible to complete remediation and take a retest to earn a higher grade. If you do not complete the remediation, you will not be able to retest. The grades will follow the district grading scale. The re-testing will take place after school to allow for the same amount of time given during the first test and will be scheduled within a week of the actual test date. Failure to show up for the retake will result in keeping the other test score. If you are absent on the day of the summative, when you return you will take the summative. St

### **Projects**

There will be two projects in our class, one for each semester. One will be an individual project while the other will be a group project. These projects will be considered summatives. Due dates for these projects are strictly adhered to and **if a student is absent on the day the project is due, they must make arrangements to get the project to me on due date before the school day ends.**

### **Absences**

Since this class is getting students ready to take a state end of course exam that counts for 30% of their final grade, it is very important that the students are here every day. However, absences do happen. It is your responsibility to find out what was missed and how to make it up by asking prior to class starting or before school starts or at lunch time. You will have one day to make up work for every day missed. If you know that you will be out for more than a day, it is suggested that you email me to find out what is being missed and how to make it up. My email is [clrosso@volusia.k12.fl.us](mailto:clrosso@volusia.k12.fl.us).

### **Teacher office hours/Tutoring**

I am available for tutoring or answering questions before school from 7:00 -7:15 am and after school from 3:00- 4:00 on Thursday and Friday. I will also be available 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. These days are the same days that students can make up tests, quizzes and some labs. And I am available by appointments as well. Please do not hesitate to contact me via email at [clrosso@volusia.k12.fl.us](mailto:clrosso@volusia.k12.fl.us). I will answer by the end of the day!

### **Dress code on lab days**

On **lab days the dress code will differ** due to lab safety regulations. **No open toed shoes, flip flops or sandals will be allowed in the lab.** If you wear these items, you not be allowed to participate in lab. You will do a two page report on the lab topic.

## **Cell Phones**

Cell phones are to be turned off and put away upon entering the class room. They are NOT to be used for a time piece, I have a clock on my wall that is clearly seen by all in my class room. The phones are to not even be on the desk or under the desk but put away in a back pocket, purse or back pack.

Cell phones are not to be out during test times. If it is suspected that a student used a phone on a test, the student will receive a 0 for the test and it CANNOT be made up.

## Rules for the Classroom

1. Be prompt.
  2. Be positive.
  3. Be prepared.
  4. Be polite.
  5. Be productive.
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### Consequences

Consequences for noncompliance with the above rules

Verbal warning

Seat reassignment

Lunch detention

Phone call home

Referral

Consequences for following above rules:

Rewards and certain privileges

Severe clause: If misbehavior is harming another student, teacher or property, student will be immediately sent to the dean's office on a referral

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**I have read the grading scale and assignment of points; absence policy; cell phone, electronic devices policy, dress code policy, rules and consequences for the class room.**

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Student signature and date

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Parent signature and date

## IB Biology II and III

2017-2018

C. Rosso

Welcome back to yet another year of biology! At the end of this school year, you will sit for the IB biology test and will be expected to recall information from both your junior and senior years. It is important that you keep all of your notes, labs, worksheets, quizzes and any tests that I may have given back to you for review. This year will include more notes and more hours of lab along with the Group 4 project that is completed in conjunction with the IB chemistry and physics students.

### Requirements:

Binder or folder for biology notes

colored pens- blue and black ink

calculator

pencils

College rule notebook paper

### Grading policy

It is your responsibility to stay on top of your grades by utilizing the online grading system Gradebook. Please view the county's grading policy at the following link:

[www.myvolusiaschools.org/vims/Documents/Secondary Grading Guidelines.pdf](http://www.myvolusiaschools.org/vims/Documents/Secondary%20Grading%20Guidelines.pdf)

I do computer over rides for midterm or final grades.

### Weighting of grades

**Formatives**, which are worksheets, some labs, activities within the classroom and homework, are **weighted 40%** of your nine weeks grade. Due to you heading off to college in a year's time, it is important that we get prepared for how assignments will be handled there. When your formative is assigned you will be given a due date which will be firm. If you do not have the assignment done on time, it will not be accepted and you will earn a 0. If it is determined that you have copied off of someone's paper, both individuals will earn a 0.

**Summatives**, which will be all tests, some labs and all projects, are weighted 60% of your nine weeks grade. You will have the opportunity to make up **one (1)** summative throughout the nine weeks. You must have earned a **70% or lower** to earn the right to retest or re do the summative be it a test, lab write up or project. The re- take or re- do deadline will be determined by both you and myself.

### **Attendance**

You are entering your last year of biology and at the end of this year you have a high stakes cumulative test. Needless to say, your attendance is necessary for your success in this class. If you are absent, you will have one day to make up work for every day absent. It is your responsibility to make arrangements with me to make up any quizzes or tests you might have missed. Quizzes and tests can be made up after school. You will have two school days to make up a quiz before it is considered a 0. You will have one week from the test date to make up tests before they are counted as a 0 in the grade book

### **Labs**

We are going to working on earning up to 40 hours more of lab time. We will have an assigned lab day and it will be imperative that you are present on that day. We are sharing lab space with other classes and they will not be doing the same labs, so we can't leave our equipment out. If you miss a lab you will have to schedule a time after class to make up the lab and the hours. Make up must be done within 5 school days of the original lab day. We will do labs to mirror the criteria of the internal assessments. Then you will decide on one area of interest and do the one internal assessment that will be graded by an IB moderator. These internal assessments will be completed by CHRISTMAS BREAK!!!

### **Notebooks**

You are required to have a notebook, folder or section of a notebook for my class. You will keep all of your power point notes, worksheets, and observation sheets for labs, copies of lab write ups and internal assessments, quizzes and any tests in this binder/folder

### **Electronic devices**

The electron device policy will mirror the district's policy on electronic devices in the classroom. Cell phones are to be turned off, not on vibrate, during the entire class time. They are not to be on the desk or in the desk during the class time. Cell phones can be on before and after school, in between classes and/or at lunch. The same rule applies for other electronic devices such as: IPODS, MP3 players, DS games, etc.

However, we are now a "Bring Your Own Technology" school so there may be some days in which you are asked to bring iPads and/or lap tops in order to do an activity.

### **Projects/Extra Credit**

Since we will be completing our Internal Assessments prior to Winter break they can be eligible for Science Fair. If you fill out the appropriate paper work and put your experiment and its results on a tri fold board and it is entered in the Science Fair you will be awarded extra credit on the first semester grade. There are also other competitions such as Toyota Tapestry in which you can win scholarship money for “solving” a real world problem. The Science Fair extra credit will only be for first semester. The Tapestry is only during 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. In order to get the extra credit you must submit an entry to the competition. You can only do one to earn extra credit either 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.

### **Tests**

All tests will be cumulative tests over several topics at one time. The tests will mirror the IB exams to better prepare you for the “real deal”. It will be up to you to review daily and be prepared for these exams. If caught cheating on any exam, you will earn a zero for the exam and not be allowed to make it up. The IB coordinator will be notified of the infraction. Every Friday you will have either a quiz or a test. Please be prepared!

### **Dress code:**

On lab days the dress code will differ due to lab safety regulations. **No open toed shoes, flip flops or sandals** will be allowed in the lab. If you wear these items, you not be allowed to participate in lab and you will lose lab hours.

### **Tutoring times**

I will be available for tutoring from 7-7:15 am every day and after school until 4:00 everyday except for Mondays and Tuesdays. You can reach me by school email: [clrosso@volusia.k12.fl.us](mailto:clrosso@volusia.k12.fl.us). You can also call or text me at (386) 717-2281 which is my cell phone. Please leave a message on the phone.

## **Rules for the Classroom**

1. Be prompt.
  2. Be positive.
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## Consequences

Consequences for noncompliance with the above rules

Verbal warning

Seat reassignment

Lunch detention

Phone call home

Referral

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Rewards and certain privileges

Severe clause: If misbehavior is harming another student, teacher or property, student will be immediately sent to the dean's office on a referral

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**I have read the grading scale and assignment of points; absence policy; cell phone, electronic devices policy, dress code policy, rules and consequences for the class room.**

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Student signature and date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent signature and date

# IB Biology I

2017-2018

C. Rosso

Welcome to your junior year in biology! This is the beginning of an in depth study of the life around you. IB biology requires two years to cover the syllabus and labs. This year we will be covering statistical analysis of data, chemistry, cells, cell processes, ecology and human anatomy and physiology. By the end of the year we will have covered one half of the syllabus and labs. In order for you to pass your IB biology test at the end of your senior year you will need to have mastered the concepts taught during this year. You and I are entering into a **partnership** that will enable you to be successful when you sit for your exam. This **partnership** requires a lot of work on both sides: **your part** is to come to class prepared and to review, each night, the concepts taught to you and **my part** is to present the concepts in several different ways to enhance your learning.

## Material requirements:

Either a spiral notebook devoted to biology or a section of a three ring binder

College rule paper

Blue/Black pens for homework

Pencils for diagrams

Colored pencils for diagrams

Calculator

## Grades:

The grading scale will be the same as the school's grading scale. You will earn your points by completing homework, class work, labs, quizzes and tests to the best of your ability. Remember that formatives (homework, some labs, class work, some quizzes) count as 40% of your grade while summatives (exams, some labs and quizzes) will count as 60% of your grade.

## Homework:

It will be necessary to continue your learning at home so homework will be assigned. It is to be completed by **you** by **yourself**. Remember that **cooperation** is tolerated however copying is not! Homework will be used to check for understanding of a concept or to extend the learning of the concept. If it is determined that copying or cheating has occurred a phone call will be made to parents as well as a written report sent to both IB counselor and IB coordinator. Three infractions could result in immediate dismissal from the IB program.

**Class work:**

We will be doing various activities during class time that may be graded. These activities will be graded on how well you complete the activity, if the answer(s) is/are correct and how well you participated.

**Labs (Internal Assessment):**

Every IB subject has an internal assessment component and science's IA is the labs that we design, perform, evaluate and write up. This year you will be exposed to all of the IB lab criteria. You also will perform one complete internal assessment lab that may be turned in as one of your IA labs your senior year. All labs will be typed on white paper in 12 font. Prior to each lab we will discuss how it will be written up and what criterion (criteria) will be evaluated. All of these labs are to be individual labs and are to be written up individually. Due to limited supplies and equipment it may be necessary to perform the labs as a group but the write ups will be independent. We will be sharing the lab with the seniors and will be assigned specific lab days. Consequently if you miss the lab day you will be given **one week** to make the lab up **after school**. If not made up, you will earn a zero for the lab. Schedule your doctors/dentists' appointments for after school or on other days!

**Quizzes:**

Quizzes will be used to determine if you understand the material being taught. You should expect a quiz every week. If you miss a quiz, you must make it up the next day at lunch. This will allow me to get your quiz graded in a timely manner and will allow other members of your class to receive their quiz grades. These quizzes will be given on Friday.

**Tests:**

Tests will be given after every major unit of material. This may involve 3-5 chapters of information. It is your responsibility to review for the test and be prepared for it. The tests will mirror the IB exam with multiple choice questions as well as data based questions and essays. The tests will take up most of the period. If you miss a test, you will need to plan to stay after school the following day to make it up. You need to plan for at least one hour after school to make up the exam. The testing day for science is Friday.

**Electronic devices:**

School policy states that you may have cell phones and iPods on campus. However, they are not to be out in my classroom unless I give permission. You will not be able to use them or have them anywhere near your desk during test time. At no time will you be able to answer your cell phone if it should ring or vibrate. Please inform all relatives and friends that you are in class from 7:25 a.m. – 2:45 p.m. I have been known to answer cell phones and explain to the other person on the line that they are interrupting my class and that it is not allowed!

**Dress code:**

On lab days the dress code will differ due to lab safety regulations. **No open toed shoes, flip flops or sandals** will be allowed in the lab. If you wear these items, you not be allowed to participate in lab and you will lose lab hours.

**Tutoring times**

I will be available for tutoring from 7-7:15 am every day and after school until 4:00 everyday except for Monday and Tuesday. You can reach me by school email: [clrosso@volusia.k12.fl.us](mailto:clrosso@volusia.k12.fl.us) or my home email: [clrosso@hotmail.com](mailto:clrosso@hotmail.com). You can call me at home between the hours of 5-9 pm. You can also call or text me at (386) 717-2281 which is my cell phone. Please leave a message on the phone.

**Teacher absence**

If for some reason, I am absent, you will be sent to the cafeteria to what is called the "Sub Center". There you will be asked to sign in on a roster with my name and to sit in the cafeteria for the remainder of the class period. While in there, you are expected to do my "If I am out" assignment which will be turned into me on the day I return. This assignment will be considered a formative. The students will have in their notebook my "If I am out" assignments so they will always know what is expected of them!

## Rules for the Classroom

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Student signature and date

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