

**Biology II / Honors
Biology 406
2011 - 2012**

Instructor: Mr. Dulin

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The class will conduct an in depth study of life from the molecular level to the biosphere. Students will investigate living things and their interactions with other organisms in order to obtain a better understanding and appreciation of life on earth. Topics include biochemistry, ecology, genetics, molecular biology, anatomy and physiology [the ecology option will be emphasized]. In addition to the core material, laboratory work and the research of scientific material (including Internet resources) will be emphasized. The course will adhere to the syllabus and general guidelines of the *International Baccalaureate Program* in preparation for the examination in Biology. **All students MUST declare in the fall of 2009 their intent to sit for either the SL or HL Biology exam scheduled in May 2011.**

REQUIREMENTS: Students will be presented with lecture materials for discussion and will be expected to conduct individualized laboratory investigations. Students will be expected to prepare for class activities by researching scientific literature in addition to reading assigned sections of the textbook and supplementary materials presented in class. Completion of lab reports according to a standard format used for communication of experimental results will be a requisite for passing the course. Essays and formal presentations will be expected of all members of the class as well as active participation in a mandated **Group4 Project**. Homework, depending upon the daily applicability, will concern itself with the preparation for class or lab, the practice and reinforcement of learned scientific procedures or the extension of learned principles utilizing the student's own innovative thought. All work and activities will be conducted within the spirit of the MPS' **Statement of Integrity**.

Materials: To include (but not limited to) a 1 subject *STAR* notebook, a lab folder, floppy disks, CD's, memory sticks and colored markers or pencils.

Text: **BIOLOGY**. 8th Ed. Campbell & Reese. Prentice Hall Publishing. 2008

ASSESSMENT: Evaluation of student achievement will be based upon the following criteria: exams/GR's (75-100 points each); announced/unannounced quizzes (20-25 points each); homework assignments (5-20 points each); lab reports (5-35 points each). The preceding criteria will account for 95% of the total possible points. The remaining 5% of the grade will be based on effort and class participation. The final assessment will constitute 1/7 (one-seventh) of the final grade. The final assessment will be HL Paper #1 of this testing year [12]. The standard grading scale will follow those listed in the *Student Handbook*. No extra credit will be accepted since the accelerated pace and regimen of the *International Baccalaureate* program demands concentrated effort on the tasks at hand. A list of current assignments and due dates will be posted at www.mpshome.com. Student marks will be updated on **PowerTeacher** on a weekly basis. At the time the assignment is given, the instructor will designate whether the work specified will be due the following CLASS DAY or CALENDAR DAY. It is the student's responsibility to maintain his/her assignments. Students are advised to save a copy in their server folders of all graded work generated by computer and a hard copy of all other work. In the event of a missing assignment, the burden of proof that the assignment was completed by the deadline rests with the student. Students should also save all graded and returned papers in case of a grade question. Points will be deducted for assignments handed in after the date due in accordance with this schedule: 3/4 of the value if one day late, 1/2 of value if two days late, 1/4 of value if three days late and no value if four or more days late. (Days refer to CALENDAR days). If a student is absent on the day of a test or quiz, s/he should meet with the instructor the **DAY OF RETURN TO SCHOOL** to schedule any missed material or exams. CHRONIC ABSENCE MAY RESULT IN THE LOWERING OF A STUDENT'S MARK BY POSSIBLY A WHOLE LETTER GRADE. Students will also apply some assignment(s) to their Technological Quotient (TQ) portfolio.

LABORATORY ACTIVITIES: Experiments are not only designed to reinforce biological concepts but also to stimulate new ideas and creative thought. To this end, **safety** will be a priority considered in all laboratory activities. A general guideline pertaining to laboratory rules and conduct will be distributed as well as individual lab-specific directions as needed.

Classroom Expectations:

Students must be prepared for class each day by:

- (a) being quietly seated and in proper uniform attire when the bell rings
- (b) having a covered textbook, notebook, pens and any other specific items ready for use
- (c) having in their possession the completed previously assigned tasks

* Failure to be properly prepared will result in certain consequences (outlined by the instructor the first class day). Students will be privileged to two (2) comfort passes per term.

DISCIPLINE: All behaviors in the classroom should be based on academic integrity and respect for self and others. Students will be expected to take responsibility for following the discipline and HONOR codes stated in the student handbook (including the MPS Tier method of discipline). Failure to exercise self discipline or disregard for lab safety **WILL BE VIEWED SERIOUSLY!!!**

SAFETY: Due to the very nature of the course's investigations and experiments, safety of all individuals involved is a major concern. General safety regulations will be posted in the class and reviewed. In addition, specific precautions will be explained as they appear in the investigations. **DISREGARD FOR THE SAFETY REGULATIONS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.**

ASSISTANCE: The instructor will meet with any student (at a mutually agreeable time) to aid the student in the successful completion of the course. If the occasion arises, students may call Mr. Dulin at 725 – 1385 to clarify assignments or gain some additional direction.

** There may be additional expectations that will be considered as the year develops.

*** Parents are encouraged to contact the instructor any time they may have some question or concern and are invited to join in the learning process. Mr. Dulin's MPS e-mail address is: ddulin@mpslakers.com

[Now that we're done with the amenities – let's go learn something]

WELCOME