

**College Prep Biology**  
**BIOLOGY 403**  
2011 – 2012

**Instructor:** Mr. Dulin

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course deals with the study of life from the molecular level to that of the biosphere – stressing an ecological perspective. In it students will investigate living things and their interactions with other organisms and the environment in an attempt to gain a better understanding and appreciation of life on earth. Topics will include biochemistry, genetics, ecology, taxonomy, evolution, plant and animal life processes - to name a few. Since this is a science that is continually growing and changing, students will be provided with the opportunity to search and discover biology through laboratory experimentation, references to current research and exploration of appropriate internet resources.

**ACTIVITIES AND MATERIALS:** Class activities will include lecture, laboratory investigations and group discussions, as well as individual reading and writing assignments. Some activities will be conducted in a cooperative manner, which will be detailed as they present themselves.

A critical component of biology is the actual 'hands on' experience with organisms - including dissection. Representative organism(s) are chosen so that the student can gain an insight into how complex and yet fragile organisms are. The intent of dissection is to instill an appreciation for life and develop an attitude of stewardship towards the earth. However, students with reservations concerning dissection need to voice those concerns early on in the course because there is a prescribed sequence of alternative procedures that must be followed.

Materials include, but may not be limited to: a large spiral notebook or ring binder, a lab folder, loose-leaf paper, book cover, appropriate writing instruments and colored markers or pencils.

Text:

**BSCS Biology: An Ecological Approach.** 9<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2002

**EVALUATION:** Assessment of student achievement will be based upon the point system, with points earned in the following categories: unit exams (GR's), quizzes (announced and unannounced), lab reports, homework assignments, notebook checks, etc. These areas will account for 95% of the total points; the remaining 5% will be earned in proportion to student effort and class participation. Marks will be administered according to the standard grading scale and quality points listed in the *Student Handbook*. Completed assignments will be due the next **CLASS DAY** (unless directed otherwise by the instructor). Points will be deducted from any late assignment accounting for a reduction as follows: maximum score 3/4 value if one day late, maximum of 1/2 value if two days late, maximum of 1/4 value if three days late and no value if four days late. (LATE ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE THE NEXT **CLASS DAY.**) **(Students must personally present late assignments to instructor).** If a student is absent the day of a test or quiz, s/he will be expected to meet with the instructor the **DAY OF RETURN TO SCHOOL** to schedule those missed assignments or exams. (A schedule of current assignments will be posted on the school website at [www.mpshome.com](http://www.mpshome.com). Student marks will be updated on **PowerTeacher** on a weekly basis. HABITUAL OR CHRONIC ABSENCE MAY RESULT IN THE LOWERING OF A STUDENT'S MARK BY POSSIBLY A WHOLE LETTER GRADE. 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. Extra credit assignments and altered test schedules will be considered only for unique instances (i.e. extended illness) and will be determined on an individual basis. In accordance with the Science Department policy, the mid-year and final exams will account for 1/7<sup>th</sup> of the final 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 to stimulate new ideas and creative thought. To this end, **safety** will be a **priority** in all lab 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, pen and any other specific items ready for use
- (c) having in their possession the previously assigned completed task

\* Failure to be properly prepared will result in certain consequences (outlined by the instructor the first class day).

Student will be privileged to three (3) comfort passes per term.

**DISCIPLINE:**

Students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the **MPS HONOR CODE** by basing behavior on academic integrity and respect for all in the classroom. Class disruption or disregard for lab safety will be viewed **VERY SERIOUSLY!!** Your instructor will discuss specific expectations and how they apply to the MPS tier system identified in the handbook.

**EXTRA! EXTRA!:**

Every student will always have the opportunity to receive extra help with the personally challenging course content. To receive extra help:

1. approach the instructor to determine a mutually acceptable time and date.
2. keep the appointment.
3. come prepared with text, notes, and specific questions.
4. "visit" **WELL BEFORE** an upcoming quiz or test date; anticipate your own academic needs!

\*\* There may be additional expectations that will be presented during the initial classes.

\*\*\* Parents are encouraged to contact the instructor any time they may have some question or concern and are invited to assist their child in the learning process.

Mr. Dulin's MPS e-mail address is: [ddulin@mpslakers.com](mailto:ddulin@mpslakers.com)

**Welcome to Biology**