

## HONORS BIOLOGY Class Rules

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*I still rejoice to hear of your being still employed in experimental researches into nature, and of the success you meet with. The rapid progress true science now makes, occasions my regretting sometimes that I was born so soon; it is impossible to imagine the height to which may be carried, in a thousand years, the power of man over matter; we may perhaps learn to deprive large masses of their gravity, and give them absolute levity for the sake of easy transport. Agriculture may diminish its labour and double its produce; all diseases may by sure means be prevented or cured (not excepting even that of old age) and our lives lengthened at pleasure even beyond the antediluvian standard. Oh! The moral science were in as fair a way of improvement; that men would cease to be wolves to one another; and that human beings would at length learn what they now properly call humanity!*  
-Benjamin Franklin

**INTRODUCTION:** This course is meant for students who love science and excel in it. The goal is to rapidly expand the student's scientific literacy.

**GRADING:** I grade on a point system. The assignments are "pre-weighted" by the amount of points that they are worth. I don't employ a weight formula. Your points accumulate *throughout the semester*. The school's grading program converts the points into a percentage and a letter grade. I DO NOT AVERAGE QUARTER GRADES TO DETERMINE THE SEMESTER GRADE; I KEEP A RUNNING TOTAL. BE PREPARED THAT ANY DECLINE or PROGRESS THAT YOU MAKE WILL HAVE A GRADUAL BUT LONGLASTING EFFECT ON YOUR GRADE ACCORDING TO THIS SYSTEM.

Make sure to keep all graded work for the semester so that you can verify your grade. If points have been omitted or inaccurately entered, I can easily fix the problem if you have a hard-copy of your graded work. *For your protection, keep your papers!*

Your points are reset to zero at the beginning of second semester; everyone starts again with "a clean slate".

**BALANCE:** This year you will need to prioritize the elements of your life more than ever. There will be demands on you to improve your organization, efficiency and performance as a student. With all of your other classes, activities and family life in mind, I expect everyone to set a healthy, personal best goal in Honors Biology and work to achieve it. I am here to help you. So, *let me know if you need help*.

**LATE HOMEWORK POLICY:** I will only accept late homework if you were absent on the due date. Absent work must be turned in ASAP; no later than one week after the due date.

If you come to class without an assignment, you get zero points. If you have the assignment partially done, please turn it in. Some points are better than none!

**Please do NOT email me your homework.** I simply do NOT have time to print out everyone's homework. Hard copies only. Have a plan A, a plan B and a plan C for printing hard copies or displaying power points. Have your home paper, ink and flash drives stockpiled. If you are on financial aid, then make sure that you have the resources that you need to provide hard copies. Be safe and have lots of back ups of your work.

**MAKE-UP TEST POLICY:** I do NOT give make-up tests. If you miss one test in a semester, then I will count the next one double. *Any more tests that you miss will get zero points. You can safely miss one test per semester.* If you will be missing a test due to a sport or other student activity, you can arrange to take it some other time on the same day or previous day. Note that even though you may miss a test, the information on that test will still be covered on the final exam. You are still responsible for the content and information.

**MAKE-UP LAB POLICY:** I do NOT require students to make-up labs that they miss due to absence. You may copy the data from your partner to study it. When you sit down to write a lab report, you typically have several experiments from which to choose. Simply do NOT write-up the experiment that you missed. Write about one that you confidently understand and thoroughly finished.

**STANDING ENRICHMENT CREDIT:** A 3% point boost is given on a test grade if you have done work in an AP Biology Primer (i.e. Princeton Review, Kaplan, etc.) that matches what you are currently studying in class. On the day of the test, please present the primer and a journal that summarizes your work in the

primer - reading notes and graded tests taken - as well as a reflection statement about that section of work in the primer. *Do NOT just make up some mumbo-jumbo at the last minute to get credit.*

**SAT 2 EXAMINATION IN BIOLOGY:** As of 2011, UC Universities will NOT be accepting the SAT 2 Biology Test scores. I am unsure if private universities will follow this trend. Please consult your counselor about whether or not to take the SAT 2 Biology test.

The National SAT 2 in Biology the first Saturday in June. To sign-up in Spring visit [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com). The test is 80 multiple choice questions in two parts. The bulk of the test is general and asks an array of questions from many biology concepts. Part 2 -The last set of questions you may choose from either the 'Molecular' or 'Ecology' Category. Colleges will not give preference to either test, so pick the one on which you can score the highest.

**AP BIOLOGY EXAM:** If your grade in Honors Biology is consistently 97% or above, then I do recommend that you consider taking the AP Biology exam. Of course, Honors Biology is NOT an AP course, so taking the test is a gamble for you. The AP Biology Exam is administered on campus on a school day in May. It contains a multiple choice section and an essay section. You must pay the AP fee.

**MATERIALS NEEDED:** If possible, within the first week of school, students need to bring one box (50-100) of large laytex/nonlaytex disposable gloves for hand protection. 50 boxes will last the entire school year.

**TUTORING:** I will do individual or group tutoring as needed. See me for help. You will also have at least two mandatory mentoring meetings with me regarding your Science Fair project application. Subsequent meetings will focus on data collection and literary search.

**SCIENCE FAIR:** The idea of research is to pose a question and then to use the scientific method to answer it. By doing this, you understand the job of a research scientist. You can get help. But, in order to succeed, you must have ownership of the project and you must prove that it is unique and brings a 'new idea' to the world.

There will be 3 components to your Science Fair project: (1) a composition notebook containing all of your notes and raw data (pen entries only; pencil is not allowed and grounds for disqualification), (2) an exhibit board and (3) a research paper presented in a binder.

Below is a brief timeline of Science Fair Activities:

Applications mailed	mid October	all applications are mailed in one package
In-house Science Fair	mid February	everyone participates (DLS)
Contra Costa County Fair	late March	large team/everyone participates (Heald College)
International Intel-ISEF	mid-May	for Contra Costa Grand Prize Winners (San Jose)
California State Fair	late-May	for top award winners at Contra Costa (Los Angeles)

**SCIENCE FAIR SPARTAN TEAM ONSET GOAL 2009-2010:**

Each student will be *well-read & well-versed in their topic*.

**COURSE DIFFICULTY:** Since the tests are ALL book tests, your textbook sets the level of difficulty. It is important to study the book nightly!

First semester, the reading gets progressively more and more challenging. Second semester concepts are more concrete and less abstract. You transition from microscopic to macroscopic topics (i.e. from the pathways of cellular respiration to lung mechanics). (continue)

**BREACHES OF INTEGRITY:** Any copying of outlines in total or sections of outlines either from students or from the back of the chapter will result in a referral to Mrs. Mattos. The same disciplinary process will

occur if you are caught with any testing aids during exams. *Note that I cannot recommend anyone for college who has cheated.*

**BEHAVIOR & ATTITUDE:** Since honors students are high caliber students, it is usually their attitude that distinguishes them. *Remember that I cannot recommend a student who is arrogant, whiny or immature.* I hope that many of you will join the ranks of men with strong character who have graduated from this class and De La Salle to pursue science, business, medicine, engineering, etc.