

# GRANADA HIGH SCHOOL

## BIOLOGY A

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### COURSE OBJECTIVES

Welcome to Biology at Granada! The purpose of this course is to give you a basic knowledge of life processes and the general laws which govern all life forms. Biology is lab-oriented. You will gather evidence to support hypotheses as you develop an understanding of the methods used by scientists

### RECOMMENDED COURSE MATERIALS

3-ring binder	6 tab dividers	Blue or black pens
Pencils	Colored pencils or pens	Calculator

**Textbook:** You will be issued a textbook, Biology, published by Prentice Hall. You will keep this book at home. **You are responsible for keeping it safe and in good condition.** If your textbook is returned damaged, you will be required to pay a fine or replacement cost of the book (close to \$100).

**Science Binder:** An organized science binder is essential for survival in this class. It is strongly recommended you obtain and bring a binder to class each day. All papers must be filed chronologically (newest papers on top) in the proper section. Your binder is to be arranged as follows:

- 1st section – Introductory and Reference Materials (syllabus, info. Sheets, etc.)
- 2nd section – Study Units
- 3rd section – Class Notes
- 4th section – Labs
- 5th section – Graded Tests and Quizzes
- 6th section – Homework/Classwork/miscellaneous

### ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

**Assignments:** Assignments in this class will consist of lab reports, tests, quizzes, homework, binder checks, and additional projects

#### General Format:

- All assignments must be written in **blue or black ink**.
- The title of the assignment must be on the top line. For homework, include the study unit from which the assignment was given. **Example: Study Unit 1, Questions 1-5, page 52.**
- Your name, date, period, and teacher name must be written in the upper right hand corner of each assignment. **“No Name” or improperly formatted papers will be docked 10%.**
- All homework assignments are due at the **beginning** of class on the date due.
- **Late work policy:** Late work will receive no credit, with the following exception: You will be issued 4 late homework passes. If you must turn in an assignment late, you may attach one of the passes to the assignment to receive credit. **After a major exam late passes may not be used for any work not completed previous to the exam.** Any additional late assignments beyond the 4 with late passes, will receive no credit. Lost late passes will not be replaced.
- **Labs:** Labs are a vital part of this course. Biology uses a lab report format that is required for these assignments. *Labs that do not follow the required format will be returned ungraded with a note to rewrite the lab within 24 hours.* Required rewrites of lab reports will earn a maximum of 70%. If the lab is not rewritten within 24 hours, it will receive no credit. Lab reports will be graded by one of the following assessments: 1) an oral lab check-in; 2) an open lab report quiz; or 3) turned in and graded.
- **Absences:** If you have an excused absence, you have the number of days of your absence to make up any work. However, any work due the first day of your absence is due the first day you return to school. **It is YOUR responsibility to make up any work missed due to an excused absence. Check your “Missed Work Folder” that is near the classroom door.** Upon your return to school, you need to pick up any handouts issued during your absence. If you miss an exam you will have one week to make it up unless you make alternate arrangements with me the day you return. Exams not made up in one week will be recorded as a zero in the grade book.

**Grades:** You will be graded on class work, homework, materials organization, lab reports, quizzes, exams, and projects. Grades will be determined as follows:

Tests/Quizzes = 50%

Lab reports = 30%

Classwork/Projects/Homework = 20%

Grades will be assigned based on the following scale:

A: 90-100%    B: 80-89%    C: 70-79%    D: 60-69%    F: below 60%

**Grade adjustment option:** During a curricular unit, we usually have a few quizzes and then a unit test. **Because tests and quizzes make up 50% of your grade, it is very important that you prepare for them and do well.** IF you do not score well on a particular quiz, but you show by your score on the unit test that you have mastered the material, you may be eligible for a quiz score adjustment. This request, with the appropriate documentation, must be submitted within 48 hours of receipt of the test score. In addition, you may see me at lunch for a grade adjustment on any assignment. Listen for details on these options in class.

### GRANADA BEHAVIOR ABSOLUTES

All Granada students show respect for themselves and others by:

- Being in class on time
- Finishing food and drink outside of class time
- Supporting learning for all students
- Using appropriate language
- Following the dress code
- Cleaning up after themselves

**Plagiarism:** *Plagiarize* – to take ideas, writings, etc. from another and offer them as one's own. This is not acceptable and will result in a **ZERO** for any students involved. I encourage you to work with other students on labs and assignments to help each other understand the material, but what you write down and turn in to me must be written in your own words. See GHS handbook for cheating policy.

**Safety:** Safety in a science classroom requires students to use care and common sense when handling equipment and materials. You are responsible for following all safety rules given by your teacher. Always consider the results of your actions on others. Failure to act in a safe manner will result in removal from a lab and a zero score.

**Clean-up:** If a science lab is to function effectively, it must be clean and orderly. Each lab group is responsible for keeping the area around their work station clean. All materials must be returned to the proper location, garbage must be thrown away, and spills must be cleaned. **Each member of a lab group leaving a mess or not returning supplies to the proper location will be docked 20% from the lab grade. Please keep our beautiful new science rooms in excellent shape by also being careful to take care of furniture and refrain from making any marks on tables or furniture/supplies.**

**Tardy Policy- refer to the GHS Tardy Policy:** Students are expected to be ready for class when the bell rings. Attendance will be taken immediately. Students who are delaying the start of class will be marked tardy.

**Tutors:** If you are interested in a paid tutor for outside of school time please contact the Counseling Office.

**Academic Support and Enrichment:** You may be signed up for Intervention by the teacher if you have not mastered a concept in Biology. Homework time and Enrichment activities will also be offered during this time period. Listen for more details regarding Wednesday A.S.E.'s in class.

**Tips for Success:** It is extremely important that you keep up in this class. **Study Units** are issued each week. The study units include:

- **Objectives** that outline what you are expected to be able to do or know as a result of the week's activities
- **Assignments** and due dates
- **Announcements** about tests or other pertinent matters
- A **schedule** of the week's lessons

*The number one reason for failure in school is missed assignments. Therefore, it is essential that you come to school consistently and turn in ALL assignments on time. If you feel that you need extra help in understanding a concept, please make an appointment to see me. Sometimes just a few minutes of one-on-one instruction makes a huge difference. If you are referred to ASE be sure to go and use the opportunity to learn a concept. Take advantage of all resources available to you. Hard work will lead to success in Biology.*