



Biology

West Adams Preparatory High School

Ms. Chen

2015 – 2016 Syllabus

COURSE INTRODUCTION - *What we are going to learn*

Welcome to Biology at West Adams Prep! You are currently enrolled in a science class that will help you make sense of the world in which you live. Congratulations!!! We are about to embark on a journey to uncover the secrets of the world around us through observation, experimentation, and readings from the greatest scientists of all time. The following information is intended to help you participate successfully in class and to ensure that we have a great year. Please read it carefully and keep it in your notebook.

PREPARING FOR SUCCESS – *What to bring to class EVERY day*

- Science Notebook
- Pencil
- Completed Assignments
- A positive attitude towards learning and respect for the rules of our class

ORGANIZING FOR SUCCESS — *How to keep an organized notebook*

Your notebook will contain all of the work that you do in this class (and ONLY this class) over the course of the year. It will be set up according to each unit/topic. You will be required to maintain a table of contents page to record your grades and to organize your work.

Unit 1	Introduction to Science
Unit 2	Cells
Unit 3	Energy
Unit 4	Molecular and Mendelian Genetics
Unit 5	Evolution
Unit 6	Ecology
Unit 7	Physiology

- **Notebook Checks** – I may collect notebooks at any time, with or without warning, to grade. It is in your best interest to keep all your work in an organized manner. A listing of items that I will check will be posted. Keep in mind I grade only certain questions. Since you don't know which questions I'll be grading, it would be an excellent idea to have everything completed. **A 20% deduction in grade will be applied to late notebooks.**

GRADES

I do not give grades, you earn them. Your grade reflects YOUR effort. No one else is responsible for your grade but you. Grades are based on the following:

Category	Points	%
Brainjogs/Participation	10 pts. per day	10%
Practice Work (class work, homework)	20 - 50 pts. each	50%
Assessment (labs, projects, tests)	100 - 200 pts. each	40%

DAILY SCHEDULE/BRAINJOGS

You can expect brainjogs **every** day. This is a brief activity that will last until **ten** minutes past the tardy bell each day. Each day you will copy what is written on the board, and then complete the assignment. Brainjogs will be graded based on the amount of effort you put into them, not on their correctness. The format will be as follows:

- **Objectives**- The objectives are what you should be able to do by the end of class. If you can do what they state, you are ready for any assessment! They also make great study guides.
- **Brainjog**- This activity reviews old material, introduces new material, and helps you focus on today's lesson.

HOMEWORK

Expect to have homework. Each assignment will be:

- Done to the best of your ability. I expect you to at the very least **ATTEMPT EACH QUESTION**.
- Homework is stamped at the **BEGINNING** of class after the tardy bell. I may keep the assignments for grading or hand it back to you to go over in class.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments are to be turned in on their posted due date. **Late work will not be accepted!** I understand, however, that from time to time conflicts in scheduling arise that may prevent you from completing an assignment on time. I am open to discussing the possibility of extensions on any assignment on two conditions: 1) I judge your reasons to be valid and unavoidable, and 2) You bring your reasons to my attention *before* the assignment is due.

ABSENCES

If you miss class, you must do the following:

1. Turn in assignments that were due the day you were absent.
2. Check the class “model journal” which tells you what you missed, including homework.
3. Do the assignments that you missed. Ask for help if needed.
4. Turn the makeup work to Ms. Chen

You have **2 days** following your absence to complete missed assignments or assessments. **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL ASSIGNMENTS MISSED.** Excessive absences, excused or not, will affect your grade. My expectation is that you will take the responsibility of finding out any work that you may have missed during an absence.

ABSENCES ON QUIZ / EXAM DAYS

If you miss class on a quiz / exam day, you have six days to make up the quiz / exam. **You must schedule an appointment to make up your quiz / exam. Make-ups will be more difficult.**

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Students caught copying from other students, allowing students to copy their work, plagiarizing other’s work or ideas, or submitting work that is not of their own creation will receive a ***zero*** on that assignment and will face ***disciplinary action***.

CLASS EXPECTATIONS

I expect that every student will do their best and honor the standards of this classroom. There are ***NO EXCUSES!!!*** I expect the following from each student:

1. Be respectful
2. Be responsible
3. Be responsive

The above are my expectations. **EXCEED THEM!**

Those who choose to make poor decisions and disrespect themselves and others will suffer the following consequences:

- **1ST OFFENSE:** verbal warning
- **2nd OFFENSE:** 10 minute detention, contact parent/guardian
- **3rd OFFENSE:** above + 20 minutes of after school time (30 min total)
- **4th OFFENSE:** above + Dean’s Office + 30 minutes of after school time

*****Ms. Chen reserves the right to be creative in dealing with disruptions*****

AND FINALLY, WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM MS. CHEN

- Fairness and consistency
- Excellent, engaging classes with clear agendas taking place in a safe learning atmosphere
- An open line of communication. If ever you need to reach me, I can be contacted at my email (joanna.chen@lausd.net)

I have ***HIGH EXPECTATIONS*** for all of you and am looking forward to an excellent year!

❧ NO EXCUSES ❧