



Course Description

Biology is the study of life. It describes the characteristics, classification, and behaviors of organisms, how species came into existence, and the interactions they have with each other and with the environment. Topics will include biochemistry, cellular biology and transport, cellular respiration and photosynthesis, DNA and protein synthesis, genetics, evolutionary changes, ecology, and climate change. Studying these various topics will allow you to use critical thinking skills by conducting scientific observations, inquiry experiments, and learning how to approach and solve real world problems.

Classroom Expectations/Procedures

These expectations will include online and offline learning activities. The work for the week in each content area can be found in Google Classroom in a module overview as well as posted on the classroom board. Tools in Google Classroom will be used to review class material such as instructional videos, virtual labs, assignments, and other online resources.

- Students will check Agenda Board/Google Classroom daily for announcements.
- Students will complete weekly assignments by assigned due dates.
 - Students will submit work via Google Classroom, email, or during class sessions.
 - Notify the teacher of submission problems or extensions.
- Students will uphold academic integrity and not engage in plagiarism or cheating.
 - Students will complete their own work and not copy from someone else/ or provide answers to someone else. Remember - Always cite sources and provide references when needed.
 - AI generated work is discouraged. Teachers use originality reports for research assignments.
- Students will use appropriate language and behavior when communicating with teachers and peers.
- Students should take notes in their notebooks to help them with assignments and assessments.
- No eating or drinking allowed during class sessions and labs.
 - Food, gum, and sugary drinks are prohibited. Water is allowed in a closed container.
- Personal electronic devices are to be **silent and away during class time**. **Teacher approval required.**
- Always follow proper lab safety rules!
- Communicate with teacher any questions or concerns regarding classroom expectations.

It is important that students understand their responsibility as learners to engage in their classrooms each day. In addition, they are responsible for the same regulations as listed in the Ayala Student Handbook. This includes appropriate online behavior within the Online Learning Platform.

(Refer to Classroom Matrix on Ayala Classroom website)

Remind 101

Do you sometimes need a reminder about upcoming exams or assignments? If so, I recommend you sign up for Remind for our class. Remind is a one-way text message from me to you. All phone numbers are kept private and are never seen. You can unsubscribe any time you want and best of all it is free! Parents can sign up as well! To receive messages, text 81010 and enter the code for your class period in the classroom website's **Class Information** tab.

Grading Policy

Grades can be accessed online via the student and/or parent Aeries Portal. The course grade will be determined by the accumulation of points from labs, homework, classwork, projects, tests/quizzes, and Final Exam. The standard grading system will be used.

The grading scale is as follows: 90-100% = A 80-89% = B 70-79% = C 60-69% = D < 59% = F

Overall grades will be weighted as follows:

Assessments – Summative (e.g., exams, semester finals)	45%
Assessments – Formative (e.g., quizzes, FRQs)	15%
Laboratory & Projects (e.g., laboratory activities, notebooks, research, design)	25%
Assignments (e.g., classwork, homework, unit checks, etc.)	15%

All students begin each semester with a “Satisfactory” mark in citizenship and work habits. Students must show the characteristics of an “Outstanding” to earn that mark. Students whose cell phones are confiscated or who are consistently tardy will automatically receive a “Needs Improvement” mark or an “Unsatisfactory” mark for their citizenship grade dependent on the severity and frequency. Students with missing assignments will automatically receive a “Needs Improvement” mark for their work habits grade.

Note: 60% of the grade is based on assessments. If a student is absent on the day of a test or quiz, it is the student’s responsibility to schedule the exam with the teacher. Tests will be scheduled during lunch or before/after school.

Materials

The following items are recommended to be in class daily:

1. School issued charged Chromebook.
2. Dedicated Class Notebook (composition or single subject spiral)
3. Pens/Pencils (assorted colors suggested for note taking)
4. Highlighters



Policies & Procedures

Arrival & Dismissal - Students are expected to be sitting in their assigned seats and quietly working on the warm-up activity when the bell rings. **Students should be prepared for learning with phones off, hoods down, and earbuds out.** Teacher dismissal will occur when students are seated, quiet, and the classroom is clean. The teacher dismisses the class NOT the bell.

Tardy Policy - Students are expected to be in their seats ready to learn at the beginning of the session. The school tardy policy as outlined in the student handbook will be enforced. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with this policy.

Homework – is expected to be completed by you and submitted by the assigned due date and time. All completed assignments should include your name, date, class period, and assignment title.

Absences – It is the student’s responsibility to identify assignments that need to be made up. All class assignments and handouts are available through Google Classroom. Contact the teacher to arrange a make-up schedule for any quizzes, tests, or lab activities. Assignments, homework, and tests previously announced and due the day of the absence will be due the day the student returns to class. Absent work must be turned in within the number of days the student was absent, or it is considered late.

Late Work – will only be accepted during the current six-week grading period. The maximum grade available for late work is 60%. Students can use an “Oops” or HW Pass to turn in a late assignment without penalty during that same grading period.

Cheating – including copying or turning someone else's work in as your own is not allowed. Cheating will not be tolerated and will result in a zero for the assignment and administrative referral. Students should refer to the Academic Honesty section as outlined in the Student Handbook.

Group Work - We will frequently work in pairs and teams. During group work, answers and solutions may be freely shared, but all members are expected to contribute. Simply copying answers from another lab report, homework, etc. without having helped to produce the product is *plagiarism* and will be treated as such.

Use of Electronics in Class - On occasion, we will responsibly use cell phones, tablets, and laptops in class. You will be expected to use your own device (if available) or share a device as instructed and only for the task at hand. *Games, videos, social media, texting, and other apps are a distraction. You are expected to always refrain from these activities during class.*

Listening to music or watching unauthorized videos is not permitted during class time. Earbuds and headphones are only allowed while watching approved videos assigned by the teacher and at a reasonable time. Earbuds should not be in your ear with music playing during lessons. **Prior teacher approval required.**

Electronic Devices: Electronic devices, when not utilized as a teacher-directed learning tool, are prohibited in class. This includes the use of cell phones, ear buds and headphones. Cell phones must be silenced and secured away. Earbuds should not be in ears. If the above items are brought out during class, they will be confiscated for the period.

On exam days, all electronic devices must be stored in student bags and out of sight for the entirety of the period. Failure to do so will result in a score of zero on the exam. Please review Ayala HS Student and Parent Handbook.

Progressive Discipline Plan

A positive progressive discipline plan will be used in our class. We all have choices and what we choose to do defines our character. The progressive discipline plan is as followed:

- 1) Warning – a polite way to remind you of your actions and to correct them.
- 2) Conference with student – a personal reminder to get back on task, movement to a new group and/or electronic device secured safely away (end of class period)
- 3) Detention/Parent Contacted –lunch detention, parents/guardians will be notified of actions and/or electronic device secured safely till the end of day.
- 4) Counselor Intervention/Parent Conference – Parent, student and teacher will discuss the problem behavior and devise a plan.
- 5) Administrative Referral – Parent Conference. Alternative assignments may also be assigned.

*Detention must be served within a week of receiving it. If the detention is **not served** within the allotted time, the teacher will **double** the student's detention time. If the detention is **still not served**, a referral to the office will be given and possible Saturday School.

