

# Biology I Syllabus

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## Part 1: Course Information

### Instructor Information

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### Course Description

The goal of Biology I is to equip students with a foundational set of understanding of molecules and organisms, heredity, evolution, and ecosystems that will benefit them throughout their high school career and postsecondary journey. Biology I will help students to gain a deeper understanding of life and will help students cultivate an appreciation of life. To accomplish this goal, we will incorporate science and engineering practices and crosscutting concepts into everyday skills and learning. Collaboration and individual effort will be required.

Students will be expected to work hard during class and outside of class. Meaning, while most work will be completed during class time, some work and effort will need to be completed at home. Students should take full advantage of their school educational time and should work to manage their time efficiently outside of school. This is a required course to graduate, therefore learning the concepts are not only beneficial (and fun), but necessary.

Students who struggle with science should be prepared to spend additional time outside of class completing the course requirements and learning the concepts. Please reach out to me, so I can best help you. **I am always here to help, all you have to do is ask.**

### General Education/High School Pathway Area

- Biology is one of the three required science courses for graduation.

### Textbook & Course Materials

- Provided online access through Clever - SAVVAS
- A folder, binder, or notebook is required. If you need one, I will provide one for you.

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## Part 2: Student Learning Outcomes

Students should pay close attention to the deadlines. Under each topic on google classroom see the readings, slides, resources, activities, and assignments.

Throughout the course, students will engage in labs, collaborative investigations, and real-world problem-solving exercises that promote critical thinking and prepare them for the **Tennessee Biology End-of-Course (EOC) Exam**, which accounts for 15% of the final grade

## Curricular Competencies

Each block will challenge students to think critically. Emphasis is placed on inquiry-based learning, data analysis, modeling, and scientific reasoning aligned with the 2025 Tennessee Biology Standards. Science is a set of practices that use analysis and argumentation to establish, extend, and refine knowledge. Biology is split into 4 Life Sciences Units. Each block is aligned with the TN Department of Education's standards and approaches to instruction which include Science and Engineering Practices and Crosscutting Concepts.

Science and Engineering Practices (SEPs)	Crosscutting Concepts (CCCs)	Life Sciences
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Asking questions and defining problems</li><li>2. Developing and using models</li><li>3. Planning and carrying out controlled investigations</li><li>4. Analyzing and interpreting data</li><li>5. Using mathematics and computations thinking</li><li>6. Constructing explanations and designing solutions</li><li>7. Engaging in argument from evidence</li><li>8. Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Pattern</li><li>2. Cause &amp; Effect</li><li>3. Scale, Proportion, &amp; Quantity</li><li>4. Systems &amp; System Models</li><li>5. Energy &amp; Matter</li><li>6. Structure &amp; Function</li><li>7. Stability &amp; Change</li></ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1: From molecules to organisms: Structures and processes</li><li>• 2: Ecosystems: Interactions, energy, and dynamics</li><li>• 3: Heredity: Inheritance and variation of traits</li><li>• 4: Biological evolution: Unity and diversity Earth and Space Sciences</li></ul>

For more information on TDOE Science Documents please see the following links.

- [TN Science Standards Implementation Guide](#) (old)
- [TN Science Standards Reference](#) (old)
- [Tennessee Academic Standards for Science](#) (new)
- [EOC Assessment Blueprint](#)
- <https://www.livebinders.com/b/2426642#anchor>

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## Part 3: Grading Policy

### Late Work Policy

Be sure to pay close attention to deadlines. Make up work will be accepted with a deduction, until each  $4\frac{1}{2}$  week grading period ends for standard classes. Late work will not be accepted for honors classes. Extensions will be provided as long as the student has reached out before the due date and developed a make up plan approved by the instructor. Otherwise, no make up assignments or quizzes, or late work accepted after each grading period without a serious and compelling reason and instructor approval. Students must keep up with their assignments as this will help prepare for exams and may be a part of the student's notebook. There *will not* be an opportunity to submit late work at the end of the course.

### Viewing Grades in ASPEN

Points you receive for graded activities will be posted to the ASPEN Grade Book. Click on the My Grades link on the left navigation to view your points. Grades are updated weekly. You will see a visual indication of new grades posted on your ASPEN home page under the link to this course. Check your grades regularly. Report Cards will be issued twice a semester – 9<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> weeks. Progress reports will be issued twice a semester – 4½ and 13½ weeks.

### Assessments and Exams

Student's mastery of course material will be assessed through scheduled exams. There will be one state wide cumulative exam, the EOC which will count for 15% of the grade. Of the following 85% of the grade, 40% will be assignments and projects, all assessments and exams will count as 60% of the student grade.

#### Final Grade =

- 1st Nine Weeks Average (42.5%)
- 2nd Nine Weeks Average (42.5%)
- **EOC Exam (15%)**

### Grading Policy

Grade	How Much You Have Learned	Percent Range
A	Mastery	90 – 100
B	On Track	80 – 89
C	Approaching	70 – 79
D	Not demonstrating understanding and lack of effort	60 – 69
F	Concepts not learned, failing work	0 – 59

**Course Expectations:****Teachers Will:**

- Provide rigorous, engaging, and standards-aligned instruction.
- Support student learning through clear communication and timely feedback.
- Maintain an organized and accessible google classroom course.

**Students Will:**

- Use google classroom daily to access assignments, resources, and submit work.
- Respect peers, teachers, and the learning environment.
- Strive to master the course content through critical thinking and collaboration.
- Reflect on learning and persist through academic challenges. Learn from mistakes.
- Come prepared with the necessary materials and a fully charged school-issued device.

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## **Part 4: Course Policies**

### **Attendance**

Attendance is not only required, but also necessary to ensure the paced learning of every student. It is understandable for absences to occur for various reasons from doctor's appointments to family emergencies; however, when a student is absent, they are responsible for the material covered in the class and related assignments. Students should request their work via email or written request handed to the instructor immediately before or after their absence. Students are responsible for retrieving and completing their missed work. Students use google classroom to stay on track during absences.

### **Collaboration**

Students must be willing to share their thoughts, opinions, and questions. Most class blocks have a discussion component and all students are expected to participate. Students must learn the value of different perspectives and work together to increase knowledge. Students must model thoughtful conversation. Additionally, quality participation in class activities will periodically be taken and noted in ASPEN.

### **Critical Thinking**

Students of all ability levels will be asked to perform on high levels. Students will be challenged to grow in their thinking. Students should be open to thinking critically and use their insights to move the conversation forward and to ask questions. Claim, Evidence, Reasoning forms of specific writing are expected.

### **Email**

Email, a private message on google classroom, or a message over Parent Square is the best way to contact me regarding classroom questions. Take ownership of your learning.

### **Inquiry**

Many of the questions asked, as students learn and discuss concepts, are centered around investigations. Students must advocate for their own learning by making inquiry a daily habit, as every good scientist does.

### **Innovation**

As students learn and discuss, they should embrace the creation of new ideas, original thoughts, and unexplored possibilities. Students should be aware of their own biases and work to broaden their perspectives. When completing assignments and working in groups, students are encouraged to be innovative, look at the world around them, ask questions, discover problems, and develop solutions.

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## **Makeup Work**

If you are absent for any reason—excused or unexcused—you are responsible for making contact the day you return to get what you missed. I will not track you down. It is the student's responsibility to set up a time to make up any missing quiz or exam. Any assignment or project that is due on the day a student is absent is due the day the student returns to school. All makeup work of absence, according to CCBOE's attendance policy, must be submitted within five days of the missed class unless otherwise specified by the instructor. If you have any questions, please see me for help.

## **Extra Credit**

Extra credit will NOT be extended to individual students. Extra credit opportunities will be given to the entire class, so every student will have the same opportunity to earn extra credit. This will not be accepted late.

## **Professionalism**

Students should be on time and ready to learn every day. Students should be prepared to learn with all assigned readings and materials completed *before* class. Students should release themselves from any distractions *before* they come to class. When addressing peers, school leadership, classroom guests, or instructors, students should speak with respect, patience, and consideration.

## **Complete Assignments**

Assignments must be submitted by the given deadline or special permission must be requested from the instructor *before the due date*. Extensions will not be given beyond the next assignment except under extreme circumstances. All assignments must be completed by the assignment due date and time. Late or missing assignments will affect the student's grade.

## **Academic Dishonesty Policy**

1. Academic dishonesty includes such things as cheating, inventing false information or citations, plagiarism and helping someone else commit an act of academic dishonesty. It usually involves an attempt by a student to show possession of a level of knowledge or skill that he/she does not possess.
2. Course instructors have the initial responsibility for detecting and dealing with academic dishonesty. Instructors who believe that an act of academic dishonesty has occurred are obligated to discuss the matter with the student(s) involved. Instructors should possess reasonable evidence of academic dishonesty. However, if circumstances prevent consultation with student(s), instructors may take whatever action (subject to student appeal) they deem appropriate.
3. Instructors who are convinced by the evidence that a student is guilty of academic dishonesty shall assign an appropriate academic penalty. If the instructors believe that the academic dishonesty reflects on the student's academic performance or the academic integrity in a course, the student's grade should be adversely affected. Suggested guidelines for appropriate actions are: an oral reprimand in cases where there is reasonable doubt that the student knew his/her action constituted academic dishonesty; a failing grade on the particular paper, project or examination where the act of dishonesty was unpremeditated, or where there were significant mitigating circumstances; a failing grade in the course where the dishonesty was premeditated or planned. The instructors will file incident reports with the Principal or their designees. These reports shall include a description of the alleged incident of academic dishonesty, any relevant documentation, and any recommendations for action that he/she deems appropriate.

# Student Testing Code of Ethics and Security

It is important for you as a student to know that the following guidelines are to be strictly followed. This year the TNReady EOC test will count at least 15% of your final semester grade. Your work on this test is very important and it deserves your best effort.

I understand that during testing on the days of the assessment, I am responsible for:

- Not having any electronic devices on me or in my purse/backpack/pockets
  - Including but not limited to cell phones, smart phones, smart watches, etc. **during testing or during breaks.**
  - Best practice is for students to leave devices at home or in their lockers on the day of testing.
  - If I am caught with a device during testing or during breaks, my test may be nullified, resulting in a zero as at least 15% of my semester grade, and any school level disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the administration.
- Trying my best on the test
  - If I do not attempt to test (I give **no answers or randomly answer** questions) my test score may be nullified, resulting in a zero as at least 15% of my semester grade, and any school level disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the administration.
  - The testing administrators and proctors in the testing environment will determine if no answers or random answering is taking place.
  - I will focus and put forth effort on the test .
- Being honest and not cheating
  - If I am caught cheating (taking pictures of the test, writing down and passing answers, talking to other students, looking on other computers, using software outside the testing platform), my test may be nullified, resulting in a zero as at least 15% of my semester grade, and any school level disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the administration.

**Important Note:** Any form of academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, may be reported to the office of student affairs.

**Course policies are subject to change.** It is the student's responsibility to check for corrections or updates to the syllabus. Any changes will be posted in the classroom