



Deer Valley Unified School District



Course Title: Biology

Instructor: Grant Hamilton

Room: 111

School Phone (602)-467-6700 ext 76803

School e-mail: grant.hamilton@dvusd.org Class Website: dvshamiltonearthscience.weebly.com

Course Description: This course concentrates on the study of living organisms including structure, function, and interaction. Labs and activities are designed to investigate objectives presented in class. This course is required for graduation.

This course is aligned with the Arizona State Standards which include the Common Core State Standards.

Course Goals & Objectives:

Goal: By the end of each semester, 100% of earth science student will meet or succeed next generation science standards and Common Core standards by scoring 80% on district finals, class exams, and/or the school's scientific method exam, or perform 15% better on ongoing examinations.

Objectives:

1. Become lifelong independent learners and problem solvers
2. Develop and understanding and appreciation of the relationship between how we impact the biology and how different components impact us.
3. Develop understanding of the nature of biology and technology.
4. Apply scientific knowledge to interpret the natural world by manipulating materials of science

Course Materials:

- Required materials: pencils/pens, white board marker, plenty of lined paper, package of index cards, and two composition or graphing paper notebook (one for notes and another for labs and activities)
- Other useful materials: color pencils, flash drive, notecards, markers, highlighter, white out, ruler, three ring binder
- Each student will have a choice of a CD textbook or a regular textbook from the bookstore.

Classroom/Course Expectations:

Classroom Guidelines:

- Demonstrate respect to classmates, teachers, and equipment
- Take accountability and responsibility in one's learning
- Positively listen to class discussion, demonstrations, and explanations
- Take a chance and contribute to class discussions. Don't be afraid of asking questions or being wrong.
- Turnoff all other electronic gadgets before class begins and store them in backpacks, purses, etc.
- Students must be seated when and until the bell rings or when asked to move around the classroom

Electronic Devices: Many students want to have the privilege of carrying electronic devices on campus. With that privilege comes the responsibility of ensuring that those items are not used on campus during class or on a bus. If students are found listening to music or texting in class or otherwise not fully engaged in learning, the device will be confiscated. Misuse of electronic devices may result in disciplinary procedures in addition to the confiscation of the device.

ID Card: Student must visibly wear I.D. card at all times while on campus or at any school activity for the safety and security of all students.

Grading: Students will be graded on various items such as, projects, lab reports/worksheets, homework, classwork, test, quizzes, and participation. Final course grades are computed as 80% equaling the coursework done throughout the semester and 20% equaling the final exam portion of the grade.

Grading Scale

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	0-59%

Test Retakes

Students may retake quizzes and tests under the following circumstances:

- Excused absence on a test date. The student must discuss with the teacher about a make-up date.
- Life-events: if a student experiences a life event and prevents the student from studying, a parent must send an e-mail, send a signed note, or call the teacher to or that discusses when the student performed badly
- Discussion with parents and setting up an academic plan for a student to improve grades. The academic plan includes a written form that must be signed by the parents.

This retake policy does not apply to District or teacher created semester exams.

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory! Students who miss class due to illness or other excused absence should talk to the teacher before class begins or before or after school the day the student returns to school. The student should ask for missing work. If the student wants the work, PowerPoint presentations, or to know what he/she missed in class, the student may e-mail the teacher. Students will be sent to sweep if they are not in their seats when the final bell rings. If one misses a class because of being late, contact the teacher during lunch or the end of the day to turn in work, ask about topics covered in class, and obtain missing work.

Make-up Policy: Students who have an absence which is excused have one day for each day absent to turn in missed work. Students who are marked unexcused will not receive credit for worked missed but will still receive feedback. See the student handbook for more information regarding excused and unexcused absences. An assignment which is considered a long-term project is due on the due date and time as stated when the long-term project was assigned. Long-term projects may be turned in prior to the due date as well as parent/guardian may turn in at the front desk.

Tutoring and Extra Help: After school tutoring will be available before school at 7:15 to 7:30 and after school from 2:15-3:00 most days. Students are always welcome to drop in anytime with questions regarding their assignment.

Extra Credit Policy: There will be opportunities for students to earn extra credit. Students may earn extra credit in two ways. First, students can earn extra credit by bringing in classroom supplies such as tissues, lined paper, whiteboard markers, cleaning supplies, etc. The other manner which students may earn extra credit is by bringing in extra lab supplies for an experiment or activity. This opportunity will be announced as an extra credit opportunity.

Cheating and plagiarism: If students are caught cheating, plagiarizing, or copying another student's work, the students involved will receive, at most, 50% of their original score on the assignment and the parents/ guardians will be contacted. This policy still applies for students completing work for other classes. The teacher will be notified and have the discretion of how to handle the situation. This included physically having another student's work or having a picture of the work on an electronic device.

Dress Code: Please be aware of the clothing your child is wearing to school. Clothing that is distracting or advertising inappropriate products will not be tolerated.

(Last Name)

(First Name)

(ID #)

(Period)

Letter to Parent/Guardian - Syllabus Agreement

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Please feel free to contact me at any time, either by telephone or email: grant.hamilton@dvusd.org or (602)-467-6700 ext 76803. While earth science may be a challenging course for many students, I offer opportunities for students to get additional help as needed. My office hours are by appointment to ensure all of my attention. In addition, I am easily accessible through email.

The syllabus (which included a copy of this letter, assignments, PowerPoint presentations, and more are available on the class website. My goal is to keep grades current and enter scores into the PowerSchool system in a timely fashion so that you can effectively track performance and provide rewards or encouragement as needed. the combination of these two resources gives you the ability to know what is expected of your student and how well he or she is meeting those expectations.

I appreciate the time you have spent reading this syllabus and hope that you find it complete and informative. I ask that you and your child sign this letter acknowledging this for my records. Again, if you have any questions now or at any time, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Grant Hamilton

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD THE GUIDELINES AND REQUIREMENTS AS PRESENTED IN THE COURSE SYLLABUS, AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY THEM.

XX _____
STUDENT SIGNATURE DATE STUDENT EMAIL

AS A PARENT OR GUARDIAN, I WILL SUPPORT THESE GUIDELINES

XX _____
PRINT PARENT NAME PARENT SIGNATURE DATE

NAME	E-MAIL	PHONE(S)	TIMES AVAILABLE

*Please indicate who and how you would prefer to be contacted. I am easiest to reach by e-mail.
Is there anything you would like me to know about your student?

