



Mrs. Chavis

IB Biology



Welcome to IB Biology! Committing yourself to this course is one of the best decisions you have made. As part of your daily life you will be hearing about a wide variety of biology-related topics in the news. Some recent stories involve national security (is bio-terrorism a reality?), emerging diseases (what damage has the COVID-19 pandemic done?), environmental ills (are humans impacting global temperatures?), genetic discoveries (will human cloning become a reality?), and so on. IB biology is designed to give you the analytical tools and content knowledge which will aid you as you grapple with these issues and others as you continue your scientific endeavors and fulfill your role as a citizen and future law maker.

Like it or not, **biology will always be a part of your life.** Even if this is the last science class you ever take, you will be forced to make decisions rooted in biology on a regular basis. This class will provide you with the knowledge and skills necessary to understand scientific issues, and be able to make educated decisions about our society's policies toward how science will continue to improve and affect our lives. I challenge you to appreciate science as a "process" by which we develop a better understanding of our world. You need to understand the fundamentals and basic significance of individual discoveries to understand and appreciate the changes, advances and improvements in science and technology. In this IB biology course, I hope you will:

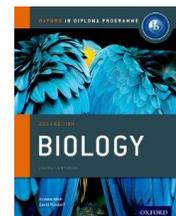
- ✓ Develop an understanding of basic biological concepts.
- ✓ Acquire scientific vocabulary to communicate and understand scientific concepts.
- ✓ Apply the scientific process to solve problems.
- ✓ Become better prepared for college level study.
- ✓ Think critically, challenge assumptions, and ask questions.

IB Biology is a very challenging and demanding course. It requires a commitment of both time and personal energy to be successful. It is imperative that you prepare for class each day by spending time reviewing the previous day's lesson. Also, *do not procrastinate* on your assignments. The IB course is prepared with the goal of working at the college level. Remember that the challenge is good for you!

Throughout this course, I will guide you through a combination of discussions, demonstrations, lab activities, and lectures to explore the topics of biology and science. I particularly enjoy having discussions about the "whys and how's" of biology. It is critical that you keep up with your expected readings and homework so that you can be an active part of these discussions. My primary job is to foster your learning. **Ask questions. Don't be afraid to make mistakes.** If you have any suggestions on how I can help enhance your learning experience, please talk to me.

How should I behave?

Your actions in class are not to affect your learning or the learning of others in the class. I trust that you will be responsible for your own learning and will not engage in any activity that will take away from your own learning or from your classmate's ability to learn. You are aware of the rules set forth by Northwestern High School (refer to the Student Handbook) and I expect that they will be followed in class. Nothing upsets me as much as a student who disrespects another's right to learn. I have very high expectations of all my students. I expect attention (and talking/socializing) to cease as soon as we begin class. I reserve the right to assign seats to students, and to change assigned seats as needed. When I am lecturing, please give me the courtesy of listening (and hopefully, taking notes). Do the same for presentations and explanations by your peers. When it is your turn to speak, I and everyone else will return the courtesy.



What book do I need?

You are required to have a course companion book for this class. You may either check this book out from the book room or buy your own copy. While it is not required that you purchase a book, I do HIGHLY recommend it. There is also a study guide that you can purchase. Information for purchasing both texts can be found on my website.

What should I bring to class?

Your preparation for class will be assumed. In addition to your course companion book, please bring the following:

- ✓ 3" – 4", 3-ring binder with loose-leaf paper and dividers, graph paper
- ✓ Pens (multi-color), Pencils (#2), Colored Pencils, Highlighters
- ✓ Scientific Calculator - we do STATS in here
- ✓ Composition Notebook
- ✓ Optional Materials: Eraser, White Out Tape, Small Pencil Sharpener,
- ✓ Anything you need to make you successful and organized - ORGANIZATION IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
- ✓ Charged and Updated laptop with your charger

What about Group Work? ****NOTE THIS WILL BE DIFFERENT DUE TO COVID****

We will frequently work in pairs and teams, particularly in the laboratory. Sometimes I will allow you to choose your own partner, at other times I will assign students to work together. **Although we will do lab work in teams, each student will write up his/her own lab report.** 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.

What if I miss class?

Regular attendance is very important if you plan on succeeding in IB biology. The attendance policy corresponds with the school-wide policy. See your Student Handbook for more information on this attendance policy. Most of the labs, presentations, videos and other assignments are difficult, if not impossible, to completely make up. Please make every effort to be in class. I understand that sicknesses and family emergencies arise. If this is the case, please let me know as soon as you can so that I can help you not get behind in class. If you miss an assignment due to an absence, it is YOUR responsibility to seek and schedule a make-up. If you are absent, visit Canvas & the class website to see what you missed and/or email ME. You have **3 days** (not class meetings) to make up missed assignments. However, if you are absent on a day an assignment is due, it is expected that you turn in that assignment upon your return. Exceptions will be made in the event of severe sicknesses and family emergencies. Simply not coming to class because you failed to wake up / was late are not considered exceptions to this rule. If you missed a lab due to an excused absence, it is YOUR responsibility to schedule a lab make-up session within **1 week** of your absence. Missed labs may require actual lab make-up or completion of an alternative assignment.

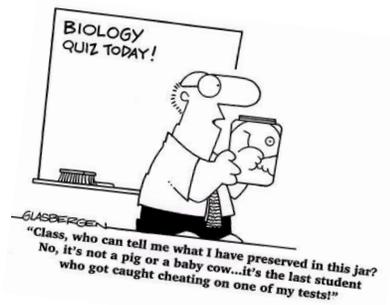
What if I need extra help?

IB biology contains a lot of information that sometimes seems overwhelming. There will be times where you will need additional help in class. **Do not be afraid to ask for help.** That is what I am here for. Most afternoons I can stay after school for additional help. My door is always open!

What happens if I decide to cheat?

Cheating will not be tolerated and is clearly a violation of course and school policy. The following acts of cheating are examples of behavior that will result in disciplinary actions.

- ✓ Passing calculators during a test, quiz, or other assessment
- ✓ Copying someone else's or letting someone copy your test, quiz, homework, assignment, or report
- ✓ Looking at notes during a test, quiz, or other assessment
- ✓ Sharing questions from a quiz/test with students who have yet to take the quiz/test
- ✓ Listing someone else's data without giving credit, or worse, making up data to fit the expected answer. It is acceptable to present your own data, to state the reasons that you feel the results should be disregarded, and then to present another student's data (making sure the source is acknowledged)
- ✓ Plagiarism of ANY kind.



If you are caught doing any of the above actions, you will automatically receive a zero (0) for the assignment as well as a referral. No make-up assignment will be given to you. The IB Coordinator will be contacted & a parent will be notified. Make sure you understand the IB Academic Honesty Policy.

How will I be graded?

You **earn** your grade; I do not "give" grades. Grades will be updated and posted on Canvas on a regular basis. The final grade for the class will not be a surprise to you. You will earn your grade based upon scores in the following categories: Major Grades and Minor Grades. You will have a final exam in the Spring. Remember your grade is **WEIGHTED**.

Major Grades: Tests / Major Projects / Internal Assessments **70% of Total Average**

- ✓ Tests are given after every 2-3 units, depending on the amount of information in the units covered. There will usually be 2 tests/nine weeks. Tests may contain information from previous units. Always be prepared. The tests will gradually become more comprehensive and longer as the year progresses. They will always be announced ahead of time with plenty of time to prepare for them. Each test will be comprised of a variety of question types. This is done so that tests mimic the actual IB Exam. Questions are based on the IB Command Terms.
- ✓ Projects / Lab Reports will be assigned throughout the year, with plenty of time both in an out of class to complete. Rubrics and instructions will be given with due dates.
- ✓ Internal Assessments are a part of your IB grade. Please refer to your IA Handout for more information on how these are conducted.

Minor Grades: Quizzes, Homework, Small Projects/Labs **30% of Total Average**

- ✓ Quizzes can be given at any time and may or may not be announced ahead of time. They are not designed as "got you" grades. They are designed to help me and you assess your learning and comprehension of the material being studied. You should always be prepared for a quiz. *Command Term quizzes are frequent!*
- ✓ Homework is given daily, whether it is written homework or not. You should prepare each night for the following day's work. Sometimes homework will be taken up, so always do your best. Homework is designed to help you practice a particular concept learned in class or to prepare you for the next day's discussion. Homework includes, but is not limited to article responses, reading responses, reading questions, etc.
- ✓ Lab Write Ups / DBQs will be assigned often in class. They are meant to help you learn a particular concept or topic of study. They will often be completed in small groups. They will mostly be conducted in class but may require some additional time outside of the classroom (i.e. homework).

Student Name: _____

IB Biology Expectations Acknowledgement

Mrs. Chavis 2020 - 2021

Please initial on each line as appropriate:

- REQUIRED:** I/We have read the entire course expectations for Mrs. Chavis' IB Biology class.
 - o Student: _____
 - o Parent: _____

- REQUIRED:** I/We have read and understand the class rules and expectations for Mrs. Chavis' IB Biology class including the cheating policy, electronic device policy, and grade policy.
 - o Student: _____
 - o Parent: _____

- OPTIONAL:** I / We GRANT permission for this student's photo/image to be published on the Internet site www.chavisbiology.com.
 - o Student: _____
 - o Parent: _____

- OPTIONAL:** I/We GRANT permission for this student to partake in outdoor field biology exercises and/or handle small live animals in class. Proper hygiene and safety regulations will be followed in the case of contact with animals.
 - o Student: _____
 - o Parent: _____

Parent Name(s): _____

Parent Email(s): _____

Parent Phone(s): _____
