Biology 

# Class Profile

Instructor:

Mrs. Haven Gammill

**Instructor Education:**

B.S. in Biological Sciences

M.S.E. with an emphasis in Biology

**School District:**

Jonesboro Public Schools

**School:**

The Academies of

Jonesboro High School

**School Location:**

Jonesboro, AR

School Phone:

(870) 933-5881

School Email:

haven.gammill@jonesboroschools.net

Class Website:

havengammill.weebly.com

Classroom Location:

Room B205

Biology is designed as a two-semester course. The Academies of Jonesboro High School class schedule follows an “A/B Block Schedule” with the duration of each class session being 80 minutes. Therefore, students will be in Biology for two class sessions one week and three class sessions the following week. Lab/field work will be incorporated into our class time.

**Methods and Teaching Strategies**

Instruction throughout this course will vary based on the topics. Instruction will involve: lectures, handouts, reading assignments, class discussions, demonstrations, TED Talks, virtual demonstrations/videos, written assignments (in-class and homework assignments), and laboratory experiments.

**Course Topics**

 (In the order that we will cover each of them!)

Topic #0: Introductory Unit

Topic #2: Structure & Function

 Unit 2.1 Biochemistry

 Unit 2.2 DNA

 Unit 2.3 Cells

 Unit 2.4 Systems Feedback

Topic #4: Genetic Variations in Organisms

 Unit 4.1 Cell Reproduction & Development

 Unit 4.2 Protein Synthesis

 Unit 4.3 Mendel & Meiosis

Topic #5: Evolution by Natural Selection

Topic #3: Biodiversity & Population Dynamics

Topic #1: Cycling of Matter & Energy

Topic #6: Life & Earth’s Systems

Topic #7: Human Impacts on Earth’s System

**Required Course Materials**

* One Binder or Folder (To keep up with all notes, classwork, diagrams, etc.)
* Loose-leaf notebook paper
* Pencils
* Pens (Blue or Black Ink ONLY!!)

**Additional Needs of the Classroom**

\*\*These materials are NOT required, but any of them would be greatly appreciated if they were purchased for the classroom!\*\*

* **Kleenex**
* Colored Pencils
* Markers

**Exams**

Exams will be over material we cover in class, supplemental material you are asked to read, and material covered in handouts, labs, or other activities. Quizzes may be given at any time covering assigned reading, previous lectures, homework, or lab procedures. Comprehensive final exams will be given each semester. Students should study daily to be prepared for exams and quizzes. The teacher reserves the right to administer a different make-up exam and/or quiz.

**Labs**

Laboratory experimentation and exploration will be part of this course. It is vital that the students follow all laboratory procedures and safety rules/guidelines. Failure to comply with behavior expectations can result in removal from the lab activities. A safety contract will be sent home and filled out by the student and the parent/guardian. These documents will be kept on file and are needed before a student can participate in any labs. Labs missed due to excused absences need to be made up in/on an agreed upon time with the teacher. Students can NOT borrow data or results from classmates. It is the responsibility of the student to be sure these labs are made up. The make-up lab will be scheduled at the teacher’s convenience. Failure to make up labs will result in a zero for that grade.

**Homework**

Students will have homework (of various types) at different times to complete. Students will receive plenty of supplemental materials to help them be successful throughout this course.

**Homework/Make-Up Work Policy**

Students are to turn in all required work on the due date at the specified time. This class will follow the School Policy Handbook, the Academy Policies, and/or the Science Department Policies when it comes to late work. Due to google classroom and my class website being updated regularly, students will have no excuse to not know about a due date. A student will only receive make-up work if he/she had an excused absence. It is the students’ responsibility to ask the teacher what he/she missed on his/her OWN time! Do not come in as the bell is ringing asking for make-up work!

**Grading Scale**

All students will be rewarded the grade he/she EARNS. The instructor does not “give out” grades. The grades will be determined using a total points system. Grades will be rounded up at or above the .5 mark. For example, an 89.4% is a “B”; however, an 89.5% is an “A”.

A: 90-100%

B: 80-89%

C: 70-79%

D: 60-69%

F: 59% & below

**Classroom Rules**

1. Be in your seat ready to work **BEFORE** the tardy bell rings!! Take care of your business (ex: bathroom) before class.
2. Put AWAY cell phones!! You will NOT need your cell phones for academic use, so they should be out of sight during class.
3. Put AWAY all headphones, music players, etc. You are not allowed to have your headphones in while you are in class, unless you are instructed that it is okay!
4. RESPECT!! This includes ALL forms of respect; respect yourself, respect your teacher, respect your classmates, respect your surroundings, respect all lab equipment, etc.!
5. Work ONLY on BIOLOGY while in my classroom; once you have finished ALL of your BIOLOGY work you may work on assignments for other classes!
6. Don’t close up early, I will dismiss you from class!
7. Leave the classroom in the same condition as it was when you walked in! This means push your chairs up under the desk when leaving, put all books and/or equipment back where you got them from, and clean up your space by wiping up any liquids or messy materials and throwing away all trash!
8. Check Google Classroom, your school e-mail, and our class website REGULARLY to stay up-to-date!!
9. Follow ALL school policies and procedures!!!

**Study Techniques**

The most common problem students that are new to high school courses is that their study skills are not adequate for the rigor of these courses. Studying for these classes involves more than just “cramming the night before a test.” The following are suggestions to improve your grade in ALL high school courses.

1. Prepare for class before coming to class by reading over the sections of your text that will be covered in that lecture.
2. Read over your notes shortly after you have written them. (Suggestion: It also helps to rewrite your notes and organize them in a manner that works best for you!!)
3. Make and use a vocabulary list as you go.
4. Complete ALL worksheets, study questions, note guides, etc. (Suggestion: Complete these on your own! Try answering what you can without an additional aid first, then use your notes and textbook for those questions that you could not figure out!)
5. Keep your hand-outs, board notes, publisher notes, study guides, diagrams, etc. organized in your class binder.
6. Always read assigned material and make sure you outline ALL the main ideas (not just a single item in a section).
7. Pay attention and don’t daydream in class.
8. Study frequently and in small doses. Cramming does not foster long term understanding that will stick with you!!!
9. Set up a study group and study with friends/classmates on a regular basis.
10. Understand figures and diagrams from the lectures and your text. If you do not understand them, ASK! (Suggestion: Coloring figures and diagrams can help you understand and remember them better!)
11. If you are having trouble with the material, get help EARLY. Do not wait until TEST DAY!!!