

I. **Course Description:** This is a general survey course of the discipline of biological science. It is of tremendous scope due to the nature of studying life itself from the simplest to the most complex organisms.

II. **Goals for Students**

- the ability to reason scientifically and use critical thinking skills
- the ability to apply scientific knowledge to real world situations
- the ability to learn independently and study with a variety of methods
- the ability to work cooperatively with fellow students
- a true understanding of the nature of science

III. **Content Goals**

- Nature of Science: how science works, scientific processes, the scientific method, experience dealing with hands on scientific experiments, research, and presentations.
- Skills of Science: proper use of science equipment, safety procedures and methods, experience using the scientific method graphing and recording data, formulating hypotheses, drawing conclusions, working cooperatively on experiments and research.
- Ecological knowledge: ecosystems, populations, biomes, food webs and interdependence
- Biochemistry: the nature of matter, bonding, the properties of water and structure and function of basic organic compounds
- Cellular basis of life: cell structure and function, microscopy, cell growth and division, cell transport
- Genetic Inheritance: knowledge of DNA, mutations, diseases, patterns of inheritance and genetic engineering
- Evolution: natural selection, speciation and classification
- Biological Diversity: viruses, prokaryotes, fungi, plants and animals – structure, function and adaptations.
- Human Biology: basic anatomy and physiology of human systems.

IV. **Student Materials**

- Textbook: Biology, Glencoe (2012)
- Notebook: One three ring binder (2 inches wide) & Lined loose leaf paper
- Supplies: Pen (blue or black ONLY), Pencils
- Agenda
- **Online Resources:** <http://lsh.leeschools.net/> this is the school website. On the school website you can click on teacher websites and go to web site for interesting links, events happening in the classroom and on campus, along with homework for the class.
- *Although the school provides the materials and supplies for basic instructional activities, the optional supply items on this list will allow your child to have an enhanced educational program. We appreciate your commitment to the education of your child; we believe that with your assistance we can provide a great program for the students here at South Fort Myers.*

V. **Evaluation**

Formative: 40 %	Classwork, bell ringers, labs, quizzes, homework etc.		
Summative: 60%	Tests and Projects		
Biology EOC	30% of course grade		
Lee County Scoring:	100 – 90%	A	Excellent
	89 - 80%	B	Good
	79 - 70%	C	Fair
	69 - 60%	D	Passing
	59 - 0%	F	Failing

- Tests and Quizzes
 - ✓ Quizzes will be given on a regular basis!
 - ✓ Each test will require careful study of lecture notes, discussion, chapter objectives/question, lab reports and any other classroom activity. All tests will be cumulative.
 - ✓ CHECK GRADES ON A REGULAR BASIS!
 - ✓ Come see me or email me if a mistake was made in entering grades.
 - ✓ Parents are able to check the student’s grade through parent Link at <http://parentlink.leeschools.net/>. If you need assistance accessing Parent link, please contact the school. When checking here are a few tips:
 - Z= a missing assignment (never turned in) (computer uses a zero to calculate grade)
 - X= excused the assignment does not have to be made up (does not count for or against student)
 - o = assignment received a score of 0

Class work

- All assignments are to be kept in your notebook in chronological order. **Your Name, first and last**, the **Date**, and **period** must always be in the upper right hand corner. The assignment **title** should appear on the left side, top line.
- All answers should be written in complete sentences, using proper grammar and punctuation.
- **It is the student's responsibility to check assignments missed upon returning from an absence!** The class agenda and homework will be posted.
- All labs and class assignments not completed in class must be finished for homework.
- Students may retake tests to raise their grades for valid reasons and after content remediation (tutoring).
- Come to class prepared to work! Most days when students enter class a bell ringer prompt will be on the board. The student will either answer the question individually in their spiral notebook or they may work with a teammate to answer the questions on a ½ sheet of paper and in their spiral notebooks.
- Group Grading: Members of a cooperative learning group will all earn the same grade on projects. Everyone is responsible for the material and helping each other learn. Students may also be given a group operation/cooperation grade following a project. These group evaluations will consist of student's evaluation of their group and group member cooperation and teacher evaluations (by checklist, and other means of written assessment)
- Students will be required to read the textbook and take notes using one of the methods taught in class. Quizzes will be given on reading assignments.

VI. Absences and Tardies

- Regardless of the type of absence, it is the **student's responsibility to gather missed assignments from either the Make-up notebook and complete all required work.**
- Quiz and Test Make-ups will be conducted upon your return to school. Failure to arrange to take the test will surrender the right of the student to make up the missed work.
- Tardy students are to enter class quietly (if unexcused) or with an official tardy pass which is to be placed on my desk. The student is then to proceed with the ongoing class activity. It is the student's responsibility to catch up on any work missed due to tardiness.

VII. Class rules and expectations

- ALWAYS treat others the way you would want to be treated! Treat each other, your teachers, and the campus with dignity and respect, and demand the same in return.
- Safety first, safety last and safety always. Horseplay and/or not following direction during labs will result in a ZERO. Do not ever throw anything around the room!
- Class begins as soon as you enter the classroom; you must be IN YOUR SEAT when the bell rings. Immediately take out and complete your warm up. Work on Biology assignments until the bell rings or you are dismissed. Please do not pack up early!
- Only one person should speak at a time while everyone else listens. Everyone's contribution is respected!
- Do your own work and do not copy another student's assignments! Do not let other students copy your work! BOTH students will receive a zero!
- Everyone is expected to be attentive and participate in Biology activities during class. No work from other classes will be allowed. Sleeping will not be tolerated! You must keep your head up during class or you will have to stand!
- Students must have their planner and sign out on the door prior to leaving the room. You will NOT be given a pass to use the restroom or go to your locker in either the first or the last 15 minutes of class. Plan accordingly.
- Do not write on the desks or the lab counters.
- Keep your cell phone turned off and put away during class time.

IX. Communication

- ✓ Open communication is essential for the function of the Biology classroom! Students will be active in this class room! Throughout the year students will be working with all of the students in the room. No student should ever leave the room with negative feelings.
- ✓ Please come and see me or email me (sallebk@leeschools.net) and call me (239) 561-0060 **ext. 360** directly and promptly if you have any questions or concerns!
- ✓ SPECIAL NOTE: The teacher reserves the right to change or adjust any section of this course syllabus to more adequately meet the needs, abilities, and/or interests of the students.