**Grades**

Grades are earned NOT given. Grades are based on a cumulative point system. All individual assignments and exams are weighted the same. Although attendance is not graded, individuals who attend class are more likely to succeed in class. Large amounts of absences make it difficult to catch up and succeed in Honors Biology. Each quarter will contain the following assignments:

* *Laboratory Quizzes and Analysis*
  + Students will take a short quiz the 2 days after each lab. Quizzes usually consist of 2-5 questions. The questions come directly from the lab activity. The quizzes are designed to ensure students are actively participating in the lab and are focusing on the key material.
  + Some labs require students to submit a lab analysis. Lab analysis consists of graphs and/or constructing an evidence-based conclusion (see rubric below).

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Component** | **Level** | | |
| 0 | 1 | 2 |
| **Claim –**  *A conclusion that answers the original question.* | Does not make a claim, or makes an inaccurate claim. | Makes an accurate, but incomplete claim. | Makes an accurate and complete claim. |
| **Evidence –**  *Scientific data that supports the claim. The data needs to be appropriate and sufficient to support the claim* | Does not provide evidence, or only provides inappropriate evidence (Evidence that does not support claim). | Provides appropriate, but insufficient evidence to support claim. May include some inappropriate evidence. | Provides appropriate and sufficient evidence to support claim. |
| **Reasoning –**  *A justification that links the claim and evidence. It shows why the data counts as evidence by using appropriate and sufficient scientific principles.* | Does not provide reasoning, or only provides reasoning that does not link evidence to claim. | Provides reasoning that links the claim and evidence. Repeats the evidence and/or includes some scientific principles, but not sufficient. | Provides reasoning that links evidence to claim. Includes appropriate and sufficient scientific principles |

* *Homework Assignments*
  + Some class time is provided to all assignments. Any assignment not completed in class will become homework.
* *Projects*
* *Quizzes*
  + Quizzes consist of short common assessments containing 5-20 questions.
  + Each week will have at least one quiz.
* *Exams*
  + Exams may consist of the following components:
    - Multiple Choice
    - Matching
    - True or False
    - Graphing
    - Labeling/drawing
    - Evidence-based conclusions
  + Exam questions are mainly application-based questions. Application-based questions require students to apply their knowledge and use their knowledge to answer questions instead of memorization.
    - Examples of Memorization Multiple Choice Questions:

Which of the following molecules contain only carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen?

A) carbohydrates

B) amino acids

C) proteins

D) nucleic acids

* + - Examples of Application-based Multiple Choice Questions:

A new “wonder food” is being distributed by a rival company. The researchers in your company determine that the “wonder food” contains only carbon, oxygen, and hydrogen. Which of the following would be an accurate conclusion?

A) The “wonder food” includes nucleic acids

B) The “wonder food” could only be made of triglycerides

C) The “wonder food” could only be made of carbohydrates

D) The “wonder food” does not include proteins or nucleic acids

*Essentially, these two questions ask the same thing, but you need put multiple “bits” of information together to answer the second question and therefore, it is more difficult, but it demonstrates to me that you really comprehend the concept.*

**Late Policy**

* Exams will be made up the first day the student returns to class. If the student is unable to attend during QRT the student must take the exam during class and make-up all class work in later QRTs.
* All assignments will be automatically marked down by 10% of total points EACH DAY the assignment is late.
* Any missed work due to absences must be completed within 4 days of returning to school in order to receive FULL credit.
* Assignments will NOT be accepted 2 weeks after original due date.

**Quality Resource Time (QRT)**

* Students are encouraged to attend QRT to review or gain more Biology experience.
* It is the STUDENT’S responsibility in an Honors course to seek out extra help if he or she is not fully understanding class work.
* Students will be required to attend QRT remediation sessions if they score below proficient (passing) on any quiz or exam.