

**Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy**  
Course Syllabus  
2019-2020

**Course:** Honors Biology

**Teacher:** Mr. Capozzi

**Email:** capod001@hartfordschools.org

**Phone:** 860-695-7239

**Course Description:**

This course in biology will allow you to discover what life is, and how it works. Your learning will come through hands-on activities, group discussions, labs, writing exercises, and independent work. Although you will be introduced to many new topics and some unfamiliar vocabulary, our goal is not to memorize facts. Our goal is to understand the scientific concepts that affect our lives everyday, and to apply that understanding to new situations. Throughout the course, you will practice inquiry skills and critical thinking. In essence, you will demonstrate that you can think like a scientist.

**Units:**

- Multicellular Life
- Energy and Matter
- Genetics
- Evolution
- Ecology

**Grading:**

There are three components to your final grade in this class – your performance, your productivity, and your effort.

- **Tests, quizzes, lab reports, and major projects** (*Performance*): 70% of the total course grade
- **Homework** (*Productivity*): 15% of the total course grade
- **Preparedness, class participation, and behavior** (*Effort*): 15% of the total course grade

**Course Grade:**

The final grade for the course will be calculated as follows:

- 40% First Quarter Grade
- 40% Second Quarter Grade
- 10% Midterm Exam Grade
- 10% Final Exam Grade

**Class Preparedness:**

You are expected to come to every class with your notebook and a pen or pencil ready to go!

**Rigor:**

This is Honors Biology, so expect to work hard. We will be covering topics typically found in a high school biology course, but in more depth. In order to dive deeper into topics, you may find that we are moving swiftly through the basics. It is your responsibility to keep up, and to alert me when you need help. We will also be working in ways that are meant to prepare you for college-level classes.

I have high expectations for each and every student in this class. It is therefore imperative that you complete all assignments and keep on top of your studying. Unless otherwise noted, homework is due to me at the **start of the class**. Late assignments *will not be accepted, and will result in a zero*. For major assignments (lab reports, research papers, projects, etc.), the late penalty is 15 points per day subtracted from the grade you achieved on the assignment.

**Extra Help:**

I understand that science can sometimes be challenging. However, it is not impossible. Any student who works hard will succeed in this class.

Please keep in mind that my reason for being here is to help you learn. If you ever need extra help understanding a concept, or you have some questions, or you would simply like to discuss a topic beyond what we covered in class, I am available for you.

**Class Website:**

I have created a class website called “WhySci” to enhance our journey together through the world of biology.

Lessons are posted each morning on the Daily Lessons page in case you miss class or need to review the material

Homework is posted on the website every day (go to the “Honors Biology” tab, and click on “homework”). Therefore, if you are absent, ***your homework is still due to me the day you return!***

The website is also a great place to find study resources, science news, information about careers in science, and lots more.

Check it out at <http://whyscii.weebly.com/>

I have read, understand, and commit to adhering to the expectations of this course.

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Student signature

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Parent/Guardian signature