

## **Syllabus: Marine Biology**

### **Course Description**

Marine Biology introduces students to the study of life in marine environments. Students will gain knowledge about the physical characteristics of the Earth's oceans; prominent marine communities and their ecological uniqueness; representative marine organisms from the five biological kingdoms; and environmental science principles that relate to ocean environments. Students will also complete a variety of lab experiences that include microscopic observation of organisms and their tissues, dissection of marine organisms, and other lab activities related to the ocean environment and organisms. Homework will average 2 - 4 hours per week.

### **Attendance and Participation**

Both attendance and participation are vital parts of this course; therefore, students are required to attend class sessions and participate actively in discussions. Students are expected to view archives of any missed classes, and are responsible for obtaining any notes or assignments.

Students will be given quarterly grades for both participation and attendance:

- Fifteen percent of the final grade will be attributed to *relevant class participation*. This includes raising one's hand, commenting regularly via microphone/webcam, and using the chat box regularly to contribute to the academic conversation.
- Five percent of the final grade will be attributed to *class attendance*. Being present, being on time, and readiness for class are all factors to be considered in the class attendance grade. *Excused* absences will not detrimentally impact attendance grades.

Grading rubrics are located in the Course Documents folder in each course page.

### **Assignments & Exams**

Assignments consist of readings from the textbook and additional sources, and writing answers to assigned questions; this work will be due prior to almost every class throughout the year. Lab work will be assigned somewhat less frequently, but still on a regular basis. There is an emphasis on microscope use and dissection of marine specimens during the first semester.

Module tests are given at the end of each chapter/module. A cumulative exam will be given at the end of each semester. Use of textbook, notes, or the Internet is forbidden on all tests and exams unless directions for such use are explicitly given as part of the test or exam. All exams should be proctored by a parent and

are due at 11:55 PM ET on the due date given. Specific instructions will be provided by the instructor.

### **Evaluation**

The final grade is determined on the following basis:

- |                                |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| ● Class Attendance             | 5%  |
| ● Relevant Class Participation | 15% |
| ● Homework                     | 10% |
| ● Exams                        | 20% |
| ● Formal Lab Reports           | 5%  |
| ● Informal Lab Reports         | 20% |
| ● Projects/Presentations       | 10% |
| ● Midterm/Final Assessment     | 15% |

### **Grading Scale**

The following grading scale will apply for all assignments and final grades. 100% – 90% = A; 89% - 80% = B; 79% - 70% = C; 69% - 60% = D; 59% - 50% = E; 49% - 40% = F. All grades are rounded to the nearest whole number.

### **Late Work**

If a student fails to submit any assessment by the due date, it is considered “late.”

- Assignments submitted 0-24 hours late will result in a 10 point reduction off earned grade.
- Assignments submitted 24-48 hours late will result in a 20 point reduction off earned grade.
- Assignments submitted 48-72 hours late will result in a 30 point reduction off earned grade.
- Assignments over 72 hours late will not be accepted and the student will receive a zero.
- Parent may request an extension from their child’s teacher *prior to the due date* or in the case of an emergency.

While we love grace and the opportunity to exercise it, we also desire to instill a sound sense of responsibility in our students, hence these expectations pertaining to late work.

### **Exam/Test Retakes**

Any student may retake a failed assessment (except quizzes), but can score no higher than 70% on the retake. Retakes must be submitted within one week of the returned, failed test. If the retake is not submitted within one week, the original failing grade will stand.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

Cheating on any assignment is considered academic dishonesty. This includes plagiarism in any form. Cheating will be dealt with in the following manner:

- If a student is caught cheating, he will receive a zero on the assignment and will be placed on academic probation for the remainder of the school year.
- If the same student is caught cheating again, he will likely be expelled.
- No refunds will be granted for students who are expelled due to cheating.
- A Disciplinary Action Form will be submitted by the student's teacher for any instance of academic dishonesty.

### **Textbooks**

The books needed for the class can be purchased through Veritas Press. It is extremely important that the student has the correct version/edition of these materials.

Marine Biology Course Kit (003582)

- Exploring Creation with Marine Biology (044653)
- Exploring Creation with Marine Biology Solutions and Tests (044654)

The following items are also recommended, but unfortunately, are not available through Veritas Press:

- Marine Biology Dissection Kit and Microscope

We recommend:

- Hometrainingtools.com - Marine Biology Dissection Kit #AM-KTMBDIS
- Hometrainingtools.com - Marine Biology Microscope Kit #AM-KTMBMIC

### **Course Calendar**

See Course Assignment Sheet, located on course page, for class dates, breaks and all assignments and assessments. Class dates and breaks can also be found on the current academic year calendar.