**Biology Syllabus**

In Biology, students conduct laboratory and field investigations, use scientific methods during investigations, and make informed decisions using critical thinking and scientific problem solving. Students in Biology study a variety of topics that include: structures and functions of cells and viruses; growth and development of organisms; cells, tissues, and organs; nucleic acids and genetics; biological evolution; taxonomy; metabolism and energy transfers in living organisms; living systems; homeostasis; and ecosystems and the environment. (TEA website 2010)

**Instructor**
Robert Durand
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512.732.9260 (pending extension)

Biology 1st: rm 310, 2nd: rm. 310, 4th: rm. 310,

Pre-AP Biology 7th: rm.308, 8th: rm. 307

**Conference Period**
3rd per (10:40am - 11:30am)

**Textbook**
*Texas Biology* © 2015
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publication Company

**Online access to textbook:** <http://my.hrw.com/>

**Student Login example:**
**Username**ab12345                (first and last initials + student ID)
**Password**          AB12345eisd         (INITIALS + student ID + eisd)

If you are unable to login to the textbook website, textbook pages are also available for download. Go to the WHS Biology website using <https://sites.google.com/a/eanesisd.net/whs-biology/whs> If you have problems accessing the site, let your instructor know so we can solve the problem.

**Course Materials**

* Charged iPad and ClamCase
* Binder or folder with loose-leaf paper or notebook
* Pens/pencils
* Scissors, glue, colored pencils (needed occasionally, but can mostly be left at home - students will be informed when to bring to class)

**Department Wish list:**

* Paper towels
* Hand sanitizer/hand soap
* Ziplock bags: quart or gallon
* Sanitizing wipes
* Colored pencils

**Google Classroom**
This is an electronic educational tool offered by Eanes ISD where all notes, learning targets, and course handouts can be accessed. Make sure that the app is downloaded on your iPad and you need to be officially enrolled in a biology course. This is new and more details will follow.

**Grading : Biology Grading: Pre-AP Biology**
  0%   Practice  0% Practice
10%   Daily 5% Daily
15%   Quizzes  35% Quizzes/Labs
25%   Lab 60% Tests
50%   Tests

**Learning Targets**
This is a very important document that will be given to each student at the beginning of each unit. This document will also serve as a review sheet for the unit and should be used to prepare for the unit quizzes and tests. All assessments are designed from the content on the learning targets.

**Makeup Policy**
For every **one day** a student is absent, the student will have **one school day** to make up assignments. The student is responsible for getting the assignments that were missed. School related activities are known in advance and the assignment will be due before the absence occurs, if possible. Students must fill out an **Excused Late Work** slip and attach it to the assignment upon submission.

**Late Work Policy**
All assignments are designed to lead the student to success on the assessment. Therefore, late assignments will not be accepted after

The assessment to which the assignment pertains. Late work (due to not turning an assignment in on time) will be accepted at a maximum grade of 70.

**Tutorials**
I am available before school from 8:00AM to 8:35AM on most mornings for Drop-In Tutorials (where students can ask quick questions about assignments, his/her grades, etc.) and by appointment for longer tutoring sessions, if necessary.

**Test Access Policy**
Unit tests are reviewed in class 1-2 days after taking the test. Tests are not to be taken out of the classroom. Parents wishing to view the test after student completion of the test may schedule an appointment with the instructor to view the test.

**Retest Policy**
Any student may retest up to an 80 on a unit assessment. In Biology, The student may keep the higher of the two test grades. In Pre-AP Biology, the highest grade stands. In order to be eligible to retest, the student must

* have ALL unit assignments (Daily, Practice and Lab) turned in
* complete an item analysis of the unit test
* complete the re-test assignment

The test format will be selected response and short answer. The student must complete the retest within **five** school days of receiving the test results. The student must sign up with the instructor if he/she chooses to retest. If a student signs up to retest, but fails to complete the retest in the allotted time frame, he/she will lose retest privileges for the rest of the nine weeks. The student is only allowed to retest one time per unit. Refer to the class website for more info.

In grade level biology, unit quizzes can be replaced by a higher unit test grade. A retest grade may also be used to replace quiz grades.

**Technology use**

* In Mr. Durand’s classes, cell phones will not be used in class. Failure to comply will result in confiscation of cell phone. It will be returned at the end of the period. Your iPad will suffice for your tech needs.
* Inappropriate iPad use (gaming, messaging, etc.) will result in the student losing iPad privileges for that class period. If necessary, further disciplinarian action will be taken. This can result in a lower grade if an assignment is on the iPad and it is taken because of inappropriate use.
* Earbuds/headphones may **not** be worn during class, except during independent work time or if viewing videos on your iPad as an assignment. It is up to Mr. Durand’s discretion.

**Laboratory Safety Contract**

A student will be removed from the science activity area by the teacher if:

* the student is behaving in such a manner that he/she can cause injury to themselves or to other students.
* the student is not following the prescribed safety rules for the biology activity area or the particular biology activity being conducted.
* the student is going beyond the limits of the biology activity into areas that may lead to an unsafe situation.
* the student has **not completed the pre-experiment activities** that will allow them to work in the laboratory situation.

**Honor Code**
Please familiarize yourself with the Honor Code as outlined in the [WHS Student Handbook](http://www.eanesisd.net/students-and-parents/enrollment/docs/WHS%20Student%20Handbook).