



JUNIPERO SERRA HIGH SCHOOL  
5156 Santo Road  
San Diego, California 92124  
858-496-8342

#### **INSTRUCTOR**

**Ericka Senegar-Mitchell, Ph.D.**  
esenegar@sandi.net

#### **COURSE WEBSITE**

[www.bridgestoliteracy.com](http://www.bridgestoliteracy.com)

#### **DROP-IN CONFERENCE PERIOD**

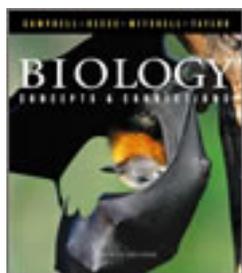
Monday/Wednesday 2:30-4:00 pm

#### **COURSE PHILOSOPHY**

As your instructor, my paramount concern is the development of effective, collaborative, student-centered learning communities. I am committed to the continuous learning and active participation of ALL class members at ALL times. I believe each student is responsible for creating an atmosphere of honesty and trust by openly and respectfully communicating with each other and the instructor. I embrace diversity and respect the individuality of all members of the learning community. I value relevant input from all stakeholders involved in the learning process and I especially encourage young adults to become problem-solvers not problem-dodgers. Finally, I gladly accept explanations but never entertain excuses from which individual growth cannot be gained.

#### **BASIC TEXTS AND TEACHING GUIDES**

Campbell et al., *Biology: Concepts & Connections*, Prentice-Hall, 2003.



#### **BIOLOGY 1, 2 ADVANCED“HONORS” (6121, 6122)**

**Grade level:** 9-12

**Prerequisites:** Chemistry 1, 2 or equivalent recommended

**Course duration:** Two semesters

**Subject area in which graduation credit is given:**

Science

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

**College Preparatory Course (P).** This is a first year course intended for students with the interest and ability to extend their study of biology beyond the basic course, and/or who are contemplating a science-related career but are not prepared to take Advanced Placement Biology as their first biology course. It covers all the elements of the regular course, including the same inquiry and cooperative strategies, but the pace will be faster, and it will go into greater depth in selected areas. It builds extensively on concepts learned in physics and chemistry and is more quantitative. It addresses state science standards. There are no cluster or seminar sections; students desiring a more rigorous course should take the Advanced Placement Biology course.

Class organization is student-centered and students are engaged in experimental laboratory activities, inquiry, cooperative group work, class discussions, reading, and critical thinking analyses which lead to a deeper conceptual understanding and increased knowledge in the key areas of biology. All student activities have clearly defined goals for both the content material and thinking skills involved. Multiple forms of assessment, including authentic assessment, are used.

#### **SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS**

Students are expected to bring a textbook, composition, warm-up log/journal (provided by the instructor), three-ring view binder with loose-leaf paper, #2 pencils, blue or black ink pen, and a highlighter to class daily. All worksheets, handouts, and assignments are to be kept in their 3-ring binder.



Major Themes covered in this course are:

- Science as a Process
- Evolution
- Energy Transfer
- Continuity of Change
- Relationship of Structure and Function
- Regulation
- Interdependence in Nature
- Science, Technology, and Society

### LABORATORY REQUIREMENT

Students enrolled in Advanced “Honors” biology will be required to participate in laboratory investigations. **Due to the large amount of time required for laboratory set-up and the mandatory participation of each student in lab activities, it is essential that students are always present on lab days.**

Although the instructor will assist students with documented excused absences make-up missed lab activities, there is no guarantee that an experience equivalent to the scheduled lab activity will be available.

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### GRADES

Student grades will be based on the evaluation of all **COMPLETE** laboratory activities, projects, classwork /homework assignments and assessments. Incomplete assignments will **NOT** be awarded partial credit. ALL assignments and assessments are included in the computation of each student’s grade, unless otherwise indicated by the instructor, and all coursework carries the same weight. **LATE WORK IS NOT ACCEPTED FOR CREDIT**, but assignments submitted after the due date will be evaluated for its content and feedback given to the student.

### Academic Marks

- **A = Outstanding level of performance**  
Student has done excellent work and has mastered the course objectives, consistently does excellent work with skill and thoroughness; and consistently has applied knowledge gained to new situations.
- **B = High level of performance**  
Student has done above average work, mastered almost all of the course objectives; and has applied knowledge gained to new situations.
- **C = Satisfactory level of performance**  
Student has done average work and has mastered many of the objectives of the course.
- **D = Needs improvement in performance**  
Student has done below average work and has mastered few of the objectives of the course.
- **F = Unsatisfactory level of performance**  
Student’s work fell below a level of acceptance for the course and was unsatisfactory.

### Grade Scale\*

A	100 - 93	B-	82 - 80	D+	69 - 67
A-	92 - 90	C+	79 - 77	D	66 - 63
B+	89 - 86	C	76 - 73	D-	62 - 59
B	85 - 83	C-	72 - 70	F	58 - 0

\*Only letter grades will appear on report cards and transcripts.

### Citizenship Marks

Evaluation codes for work-study habits, attitude, behavior and attendance are:

- E = Excellent level of performance
- G= Good level of performance
- S = Satisfactory level of performance
- N = Needs Improvement in performance
- U = Unsatisfactory level of performance

**Citizenship Grades will be based upon the following criteria for each grading period:**

- To receive an "E" or "G" students must have no more than two tardies (NO tardies for grade of "E"), NO unverified absences and NO missed assignments, be respectful in class to teacher, fellow students and other members of the learning community, adhere to our classroom philosophy and school policies and actively participate in ALL class activities.

- To receive a "S" (Satisfactory) students must have no more than three tardies, NO unverified absences, 1-3 missed assignments, display above average classroom behavior and participation, adhere to our classroom philosophy and school policies and actively participate in class activities.

- A student may receive a "N" (Needs Improvement) for ONE of the following violations: accumulating four tardies, 1-2 unverified absences, 4-5 missing assignments, talking during instruction or otherwise being disruptive to the learning process, being disrespectful to the teacher, other students or substitute teacher, not adhering to class or school policies, blatant abuse or vandalism of lab equipment or school property, displaying below average classroom behavior and participation.

- A student may receive a "U" (Unsatisfactory) for ONE of the following violations: accumulating five or more tardies, three or more unverified absences more than five missing assignments, flagrant disrespect to the teacher, other students or substitute teacher, defiant behavior or conduct that undermines the class learning environment, consistently exhibiting off task behaviors, lack of academic integrity (cheating, plagiarism, forging progress reports, submitting work NOT their own, etc.)

**DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

Individual classroom behavior will not only affect the citizenship grade, but it also affects learning readiness and thus can ultimately have a negative influence on academic achievement. We will follow a standard progressive discipline method starting with the student, then involving the parent, and finally sharing the situation with a member of our administrative team.

**ATTENDANCE**

AP Biology & Advanced Biology courses will adhere to the school-wide attendance policy. Please refer to the parent/student handbook for more details. Parents are required to excuse a students' absence by calling the attendance office @ 858-496-8342 ext. 205 by 8am.

**PARENTS:** It is important to understand that excusing your student from a day of school does not excuse them from the work they should have completed or from assignments that were due on the day of their absence. Student academic progress can be hindered as a result of frequent absences but lower grades can be avoided. Please request class assignments within two weeks of a long-term absence and refer to course website or contact instructor via email for one day excused absences.



Parents are encouraged to monitor student progress and attendance through the district-wide Zangle program at:

<https://dwa.sis.sandi.net/parentconnect/>