

Marine Biology

Trinity Collegiate School
Spring 2009 Course Syllabus
Ms. Puskarz

Textbook: *McGraw-Hill Marine Biology, 3rd Edition*

Mission: This class is designed like a college lecture/discussion course. This means that the number of readings will be substantial, while nightly written assignments will be few. Despite the paucity of written assignments, students are expected to stay on top of their readings since discussion will take place the following day in class. If I feel that students are not doing the assigned readings, reading quizzes will be used to reinforce the mission of this course. Students must learn that college professors do not constantly look over their shoulders to make sure that homework is being completed. The aim is to develop a sense of responsibility in the students to be able to be their own professors.

Grading System: The breakdown for each quarter is listed below. At the end of the semester, there will be a cumulative final. Material for that test will come from all textbook readings, supplemental readings, labs and written material. To calculate the final grade in the course, each quarter will be worth 40 % and the final exam will be worth 20%.

- Tests and Projects 65%:
 - There will be approximately one test per chapter. Tests will include textbook material, notes from class, supplemental readings and other materials. Make-up exams will be given for excused absences and may be different from the original. There will be assigned projects throughout the semester. Points will be assigned according to the project.

- Labs 20%:
 - There will be at least one lab per chapter. Points will vary depending on the lab. The lab grade includes lab preparation, compliance with rules, participation in class, as well as the written lab report.

- Written Assignments and Participation 15%
 - This category includes any reading quizzes that may be needed throughout the semester as stated in the mission statement. It may also include any written assignments done during the class period or given for homework. Participation grades are determined based on how much the students contribute to class discussions. Unexcused late work is not accepted.

Class supplies: Students are required to bring writing utensils to class (pen or pencil, it doesn't matter). Bring multiples should one fail. Students should also bring a notebook of some sort; it should have paper to copy notes as well as folders to organize handouts and homework assignments that need to be handed in.

Classroom rules:

1. Arrive in class and be ready to work when the bell rings.
2. Do not talk or disturb the class while the teacher or other students are presenting.
3. Treat all people and property with respect.
4. No food, drinks or chewing gum.
5. Follow all laboratory safety rules.

6. Comply with all school-wide policies and rules.

Make-up work:

1. Make a friend and ask to copy any notes from class.
2. If homework was due the day you were absent, make a note on the top of the assignment and hand it in when you come back to class.
3. If you missed a lab, quiz, or test, arrange a time to make it up. Make-up labs, quizzes and tests must be completed within one week; after that, it counts as a zero.
4. You are responsible for making up missed work. You must come to see me for all missed assignments and have them completed within an appropriate amount of time. It is not my responsibility to track you down with any assignments that you need to complete.
5. You have three days to complete a written assignment after it is due. For every day that it is late, you will lose 10 points (out of 100).
6. If you know that you will be absent ahead of time, assignments are still due on that day. Arrangements should be made to hand it in before leaving or after returning. This rule applies to students who leave for sporting events as well.

Field Trips: Hopefully we will be able to take some trips throughout the semester. This subject allows itself to be very hands-on. As required by TCS rules, students are responsible to procuring the funds to attend these trips. Students will not be required to attend. I reserve the right to deny a student the ability to join us on the field trip. The number of field trips that will be planned will depend on school resources, time, weather and other factors.

Chapters to be covered:

Chapter 1 The Science of Marine Biology

Chapter 2 The Sea Floor

Chapter 3 Chemical and Physical Features of Seawater and the World Ocean

Chapter 5 Marine Prokaryotes, Protists, Fungi and Plants

Chapter 6 Marine Animals without backbones

Chapter 7 Marine Fishes

Chapter 8 Marine Reptiles, Birds and Mammals

Chapter 10 Between the Tides

Chapter 11 Estuaries: Where Rivers Meet the Sea

Chapter 12 Life on the Continental Shelf

Chapter 13 Coral Reefs

Chapter 14 Life Near the Surface

Chapter 15 The Ocean Depths

Chapter 17 The Impact of Humans on the Marine Environment