**Biology II Honor – Selected Topics in Advanced Biology** **Teacher: Brad Kozel**

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Room 360 kozelbiology.weebly.com

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**Introduction:** Welcome to Biology II Honor! This is a second year honor course designed for seniors who have had a year of each: physics, chemistry, and biology. The course has been designed so that you may explore several of the areas of biology that extend beyond the first year biology course in topics or depth. The textbook is used mostly as a reference; most readings will be from other books or articles. While there will be some lecture/ discussion, the focus of this course is primarily on labs and group work. Many labs are long-term and will require extensive and accurate data recording so that you will be able to write up your experiment in the form of a scientific paper. You will demonstrate your knowledge in the papers that you write. This course culminates in a final project, in which you design and carry out your own independent experiment.

#### Academic Expectations

**Major Units of Study:** Ecology, Animal Behavior, Microbiology, Molecular Genetics

**Attendance and In-Class Work:** It is expected that you attend every class and be on time. Because you will work with members of a lab team during most of your classes, your attendance is critical to the success of your group. It is important that all members of the group be present for the entire class period. Most times your group will be given more work than any one person could complete alone. Your ability to work well in a team is very important. This means good communication, willingness to do your fair share, and helping others or asking for help as needed. If you know you will be absent for a particular class, please inform the members of your group **and** your teacher as soon as possible (email me!) and check the website. Expect to make up work within one week as many labs and activities rely on living materials and shared equipment. Tardiness will result in lowering your attendance grade.

**Work Outside of Class:** You or your lab group may benefit from doing some of your lab work outside of class. Sometimes it may be necessary to get required data or to finish experiments. If the classroom is occupied, you may be able to work in an unoccupied part of the classroom, or another room that is not being used. Please make arrangements with your teacher and your group members ahead of time and keep any commitments you make.

**Assignments and Grading:**  As mentioned previously, labs are generally long-term. Instead of having multiple lab reports due during a quarter, you will have 1 or 2 scientific papers in which you present and analyze your experimental data. Most assignments will be given on a long-term basis so that you will be able to plan your time accordingly. You will have many reading assignments both in your text and in supplementary texts and articles. The readings will provide the background to help you in the writing of your papers. You will usually have 1 test per quarter. The tests will have a variety of types of questions and may be in the form of open book exams. Quizzes may be given to assess your understanding of a topic prior to a paper or test. Your marking period grade will be calculated by weighted grades. A typical quarter will be weighted as below, +/- 5%:

Labs, Projects, and Scientific papers 40%

Tests and Quizzes 35%

Class discussion/ Participation and Homework 20%

Attendance/ Citizenship 5%

**Materials needed for class**:

You will need a notebook (spiral bound and hole punched) that can be used for recording lab data. You will also need a binder in which you can keep handouts, notes, and other information you will need in class. The binder and lab data book must be brought to class each day. Please label these clearly with your name and your teacher’s name in case it is misplaced.

**Classroom Environment: Standard Practices (Rules)** – Since we all have to get along!

* Be respectful of everyone in the classroom. The differences among us will add to our perspectives on science. It is okay to disagree with each other but do so kindly and supported with evidence.
* No food, drink or gum in the classroom. Water bottles are acceptable.
* Be responsible for your space. Keep it clean and practice good lab technique.
* **Technology policy –** It is okay to use laptops, tablets and smart phones for approved educational tasks. I reserve the right to suspend your use of technology in the classroom if I deem it becomes a distraction to you or others. Do not text or make phone calls in class. Basically, if the phone does not interrupt me, your classmates or impede your learning then we will not have a problem. Headphones are only allowed in unique situations and require teacher approval before use.
* **Academic Honesty -** You are expected to produce your own original work. This is true for every homework assignment, lab write up, project or anything that you put your name on. Many of the assignments in Biology are group based. I will be clear in my instructions if you can work in groups or not.
* **One handout policy** – I make one handout per student. Do not lose you materials. All handouts will be posted on my website and are available to be printed.
* **Mailboxes and the Inbox–** Each of you will be assigned a mailbox. This were I will put all graded materials for you to pick-up. You should check your make box on a regular basis and keep graded materials in your 3-ring binder. The inbox on the center table is where all completed material should be turned in.
* **Attendance/Tardiness** – It is the responsibility of the student to keep track of the numbers of class periods missed. Budget your absences carefully; remember that all absences count toward the 21 maximum. The Attendance is essential to your success. Virtually all of the labs and journals in this class require you to interact with your classmates and/or materials that cannot be removed from the room. Therefore you must be in class and on time to receive the full Biology learning experience. Absences on lab and assessment days are especially disruptive to your learning and should be avoided at all costs.
  + **Excused Absences** – Students who miss class for a legitimate reason have the responsibility to let me know ahead of time if possible (email works well for this). If the absence is on a test or quiz day, the student should make every effort to prepare to take the assessment early. It is also the student’s responsibility to check the weekly planner for assignments missed. Assignments are available on my website.
  + **Unexcused Absences** – These are not a good idea. If you skip you loose the opportunity to earn points on anything that we did in class that day. This includes labs and tests. As always 5 unexcused absences with cause you to “N out”.
  + **Tardiness** – Nothing interrupts the flow of class more than being tardy. Please take care of personal business between classes or during free periods. Tardiness carries the penalty of missing reading quizzes. There are no make-ups. If you are late for a legitimate reason you must bring a note.

**Classroom Environment: Academic**

* **Open Line of Communication –** This is a two way street. You can expect from me clearly outlined expectations, due dates and instructions. I expect that you keep me informed about your progress and understanding on assignments. There is a solution to every problem, so lets talk about it!
* **Keeping a good record (Staying organized)** – All scientists record and report his or her data and findings. So will you. Set-up an organizational routine that you will follow everyday and stick with it.
* **Weekly planners** – The weekly planners are your guide to the course objectives, activities and assignments for the week. We will start and end every class period looking at your weekly planner. Your weekly planners are the starting point for all of your biology work and a good tool to help you stay organized. Keep all of your weekly planners in a section of your binder. It is your responsibly to read the weekly planner and complete any assigned homework.
* **kozelbiology.weebly.com** – My website is another tool for you to stay up to date with current assignments and due dates. I will also post every document that I give you in class on the website. These documents are available for you download.
* **Active learning, Classroom efficiency and Taking Notes**– This class requires you to be an active participant. Ask questions! Observe carefully! Wonder why! Be creative with your explanations! The most successful students use there time well in class.
* **Getting Help** – Please do not hesitate to ask. Raise your hand, email or visit me during office hours or X-block. Stay on top of your work!

#### Biology 2 Honor

#### Acknowledgement and Acceptance

Please sign below and obtain your parent’s/guardian’s signature to indicate that you have read and understood the above expectations and policies and agree to abide by them throughout the year. Please keep this handout in your binder for future reference. I use email frequently - please print email addresses clearly!

Student Name (Printed) Parent/ Guardian Name (Printed)

Student Signature Date Parent/ Guardian Signature Date

Student E-mail address (Printed) Parent/ Guardian E-mail address (Printed)