



Advanced Biology I

Mrs. Osborn

2009-2010

Welcome to Advanced Biology! This syllabus will explain the activities and expectations of this class. It should be placed in the front of your notebook.

Teacher Availability

Mrs. Osborn's schedule

1st hour	Chemistry I
2nd Hour	Prep
3rd Hour	Chemistry II
4th Hour	Adv. Biology I
Lunch B	
5th Hour	Chemistry I
6th Hour	Chemistry I
7th Hour	Adv. Biology I

Mrs. Osborn is generally available in her classroom at 7:30 AM and after school until 4:00 PM. Because of school-related commitments, she may be attending meetings outside of the room during those times. Students may feel free to "drop in" for extra help when she is present in the room. If students wish to guarantee individualized help, they should check during the school day to see if she is available at those times.

Mrs. Osborn's email address: mjosborn@cartervilleions.com

Homework

There will be a homework assignment almost every night. It will be posted on the chalkboard. Generally the assignments can be found on Mrs. Osborn's school website. It is the students' responsibility to get the assignment from the board whether or not the teacher refers to it.

- The school homework policy will be enforced in this class.
- Homework assignments and lab reports are due the day after they are assigned unless an alternate date is given.
- Homework which is one day late will be penalized 50%.
- Homework which is more than one day late will be assigned a grade of zero.
- Students who have had an excused absence will meet with Mrs. Osborn before school on the day they return. If assignments were available before or during a student's absence, they will turn in work at that time. If assignments were not available, Mrs. Osborn will arrange a schedule for turning in missed work. Failure to meet with Mrs. Osborn upon return from absence will result in consequences for late assignments.
- Homework assignments may be available through STI Home.
- **No late work will be accepted after the chapter test has been given.**

All assignments will carry this heading on the upper right corner of the paper. Failure to legibly write this heading may result in lost homework points:

Student's name
Bio I A, Period #
Date due

Reading Quizzes

When a reading assignment is given, it may be followed by a 5-10 point reading quiz the next day. This will help you identify material which needs further clarification. Reading quizzes are considered "in class" assignments. An explanation of what that means will be found below.

Notebook and other supplies

Notebooks are an integral part of scientific work. They will also help you prepare for unit and semester tests.

Each student must have a 3-ring loose-leaf binder with filler paper and inside pockets, which will become a permanent record of his work in class. All class notes, reading notes, worksheets, lab reports and tests are to be kept in the binder by chapter.

You must bring your notebook to every class. A student who comes to class without a notebook will be considered unprepared and will be assigned a classroom detention.

Once each quarter notebooks may be checked. A master checklist will be available.

Students are to cover their textbook with a non-sticky cover. Students should have calculator, pens, pencils, and notebook paper with them in class. Students purchase safety glasses and store them in the lab.

Occasionally Mrs. Osborn will offer some supplies for sale for the convenience of the students. These will be priced somewhat higher than the cost to Mrs. Osborn and any profit will be used to buy classroom supplies. No one should rely on being able to purchase materials in class. **Be prepared with materials for each class. Students should not waste time borrowing or searching for their supplies.**

Laboratory

The key to scientific research is to produce results which can be repeated by others. For this reason, clear lab reports are necessary. When full lab reports are assigned, follow this format:

Heading - - See homework heading above.

Title

Purpose - - Tell what the experiment is to investigate.

Procedure - - Tell exactly what you did.

Data - - Record the results of your experiment using charts and graphs.

Analysis - - Tell what your data means and why you obtained those results. Summarize the experiment.

Extra Credit

Students will have the opportunity to earn approximately 10-15 points of extra credit per semester. These opportunities will be presented as the semester progresses and are initiated only by Mrs. Osborn.

Objectives Review Sheet

For each chapter you will be given a review (objective) sheet outlining the objectives of the chapter. This sheet will help you identify important points, practice answering questions, and review for the test. Write out the work for each item on notebook paper. Items which start, "Be able to..." do not require written work. Objectives work will be collected before each test and are worth 15 points. You should work on the objective sheet at home for at least two nights before each test. If you wait until the day before the test, you will have too much to learn.

Tests

Tests will be given at the end of each chapter, sometimes at the end of a unit, and at the end of the semester. Test points count twice as much as homework points. **All students** are required to take all exams, including the semester exam.

Grading

Your semester grade will be calculated by dividing points earned by total possible points. The percent score obtained is assigned a grade according to the scale set by the school. Possible points include homework assignments, "in class" points given for activities carried out during class time, chapter test points (double points), semester test points (double points), lab, and extra credit. For purposes of determining *semester* grades, a percent which ends in .5% or more will be rounded to the next higher percent.

A typical chapter would have points assigned as follows:

Test	35 test points	70 pts.
Review sheet		15 pts.
Lab		20 - 30 pts.
Homework		15 - 25 pts.
Reading quizzes		5 - 10 pts.

Total 125 - 150 pts. Note that the tests are about one half of your grade.

Academic Dishonesty

The student handbook lists several examples of actions which will be considered cheating. School policies will be followed in determining consequences for incidences of cheating. In addition, the following policies will apply in Mrs. Osborn's classes:

- It is not considered cheating for a student to study for a test in this class using last year's test. New tests are written each year. Mrs. Osborn will often distribute copies of previous tests for practice. It is okay practice with previous tests obtained from other students.
- Because of the collaborative nature of science, working together on homework outside of school is appropriate. For example, students may consult with each other about answers to essay questions or how to solve calculations. The work that students turn in should be in their own words and calculations should show all steps even if a calculator is used. Studying with a partner for tests is often useful.
- Homework is due at the beginning of the period. Hurriedly writing in answers as the teacher collects the work is considered cheating. No credit will be given for answers that, in the teacher's opinion, were written as the work was collected.

Absences

Please refer to the student handbook for the school attendance policy. In addition, the following will apply:

"In class" Assignments- In class assignments may only be completed by a student who is in class at the time of the assignment. These include small reading and lab quizzes. Students who are not present for the assignment will receive a "zero" grade. It is suggested that students who miss in class assignments complete extra credit assignments when offered.

Medical Absence - Lecture notes should be obtained from a reliable student. Schedule make-up labs with the teacher. ***If a reading quiz or in-class assignment is given on the day you return to school, you must take it with the rest of the class and have the option of completing an extra credit assignment to improve your grade.*** Since tests are announced several days in advance, if you are absent one day only, you will take the test on the scheduled test day or the first day you return to school. After longer absences, a schedule of make-up work should be arranged with the teacher **before school on the day you return to class** or by telephone to the teacher after school on the day before you return. Failure to do this results in a grade of zero on each missed assignment.

Non-medical Absence - This includes any excused absence for which you do not have a medical excuse. If the criteria for advance notice printed in the student handbook is met, you may complete homework and hand it in before you leave or on the first day you return. Lab work may only be made up if you were absent because of a school sponsored activity **and** if the material for the lab is still available. It is suggested that students who miss these points complete extra credit assignments. Tests will be given on the first day you return.

Unexcused absence - Refer to the school handbook for homework policies for these absences.

IT IS ALWAYS THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO SCHEDULE MAKE-UP WORK.

TO AVOID PROBLEMS, DON'T BE ABSENT.

If you belong to an organization that regularly requires that you miss class to attend some function, please impress upon your sponsor how important it is to attend class.

When you and your parents have read and understood the attendance policy, please sign your names below.

Student _____ Parent _____

Classroom Management

1. When the bell rings, students who are not in their seats with their notebooks open will be considered tardy. All students will bring their own notebook and text to each class unless instructed to do otherwise by the teacher. This is considered a classroom rule.
2. If a student is tardy to class, the student will quietly step inside the door, stand, and wait to be acknowledged by the teacher before taking a seat. Failure to do this is breaking a classroom rule.
3. All school rules will be respected in the classroom.
4. No eating, drinking or chewing (including gum, rubberbands, pen tops, etc.) in the classroom unless designated by the teacher in some lab situation.
5. Only in the case of some emergency will students be excused to the restroom during class.
6. Students are expected to follow safe laboratory procedures. Students will sign a safety contract which outlines safe procedures. Any student who, in the opinion of the teacher, acts in an intentionally unsafe manner may incur:
 - a. Removal from lab activity.
 - b. Loss of lab grade.
 - c. Notification of parents and administration of the student's dangerous behavior.
7. Cleaning the lab station and one's hands before leaving class is a requirement for safety reasons. Failure to clean before leaving class may result in a reduction of lab grade.
8. Jewelry such as necklaces and earrings which hang away from the body can get caught on equipment and scratch microscope eyepieces. Students should remove jewelry and store it in book bag during labs. Rings break open latex gloves and often get left at the sink.
9. Sandals are not allowed in the lab whether or not the student is participating in a lab. Shoes must have closed toes.
10. Failure to wear gloves, apron, and/or goggles when required by teacher will result in no credit for the lab.
11. Students will be dismissed by the teacher and not by the bell.
12. Vandalism to the desks or any part of the classroom should be reported at the beginning of the class period. If you fail to report writing on your desk at the beginning of the class period, it will be assumed that you did the writing.
13. It is very important for students to maintain their integrity and honesty. Do not obfuscate an incident with half truths and lies. In addition to any consequences a student might incur for a particular incident, detentions will be assigned for dishonesty.
14. For infractions of classroom rules, you will serve a detention with the teacher after school. If you break school rules, you will incur consequences as outlined by the student handbook.
15. Any cell phone brought into class will be sent to the office for the student to retrieve after school.
16. If the teacher is not in the classroom within three minutes of the bell (this could happen in an emergency), the person closest to the door will inform the office of her absence. The lab partner of the person closest to the door will begin a review of the previous day's work until a substitute arrives.