



2020-2021

MS. RILEY'S MOLECULAR BIOLOGY DISTANCE LEARNING SYLLABUS



PLEASE NOTE: THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE, UPON RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Ms. Kelsey Riley

Email: kelsey-riley@scusd.edu

Or, contact via Google Classroom private message

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Computer and internet
- Writing utensils (pencil, pen)
- Paper
- Measuring tools (spoons, cups, ruler) and calculator are recommended but not required

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Molecular Biology is an enriched alternative approach to college preparatory biology, which uses inquiry methods to present biology as an experimental science. This course challenges students to construct their understanding of concepts starting from the laboratory experience and to develop their scientific literacy skills. Molecular Biology students will design experiments, collect and analyze data, think critically, and communicate scientifically. The breadth of content covered in this course is the same as the traditional biology course and based on the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), but the focus is on biology at the molecular level. This course satisfies the biological science high school graduation requirement and the University of California laboratory science "A-G" requirement for biology.

WHAT WILL WE LEARN ABOUT?

This course will explore topics related to biology (the study of life), such as cellular structure & function, cellular respiration, photosynthesis, genetics, natural selection, etc. with an emphasis on biology at the molecular level. Earth science standards will also be integrated into this course, with a focus on the interplay between living organisms and our earth. In addition, the course will cover sexual health education and HIV prevention to fulfill the requirements of AB 329 (CA Healthy Youth Act 2016).

GRADING POLICIES

Grades are based on percentage calculations from points earned out of total points possible. Categories for assignments and their point ranges include:

- **Participation & Engagement** (1-5 points)
- **Formative Assessments** (5- 20 pts)
- **Summative Assessments** (20- 100 pts)

GRADING SCALE

The following percentage calculations will determine the final grade (subject to change by district policy):

Score	Final Grade
89.5 – 100%	A
79.5 – 89.4%	B
69.5 – 79.4%	C
59.5 – 69.4%	D
50 – 59.4%	F

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. **Be prepared with a strong foundation** for a higher level of science education by developing the skills to think, act, comprehend, and communicate as scientists.
2. **Practice and apply scientific methods** through inquiry-based labs, simulations, and other activities.
3. **Develop scientific literacy skills.**
4. **Build a greater understanding of and appreciation for** the scientific method, biology, and the natural world to be informed and thoughtful global citizens.
5. **Develop important life skills and habits of success** such as collaboration, mindfulness, and resilience.

ABSENCES & LATE WORK POLICY

It is important that students attend and participate in all synchronous (live) zoom sessions, because these are our class meetings during distance learning. However, I understand that sometimes there are circumstances outside of your control that may prevent you from attending a zoom session. If you need to miss a class zoom for any particular reason, please notify Ms. Riley in advance if at all possible. We will work together to make arrangements for you to make up missed classwork and receive information and directions given in class.

All work is expected to be turned in on time, by the due date for the assignment in Google Classroom.

I understand that at the beginning of this school year, we are adjusting to new expectations and new technology platforms, so I have started out the school year without a late work penalty to give students time to adjust. Beginning Monday 9/21/20, late work will automatically result in a 30% point reduction *per day late*, unless an extension has been requested and already agreed upon with Ms. Riley in advance. Work submitted past the due date/time in Google Classroom is considered late, even if it is submitted later that same day.

CLASS ZOOM EXPECTATIONS

Zoom Expectations: Distance Learning Instruction

- Check the updated zoom login information before each class period and join class zooms a couple of minutes early, so that we can start class on time.
- Keep yourself on mute unless you are speaking.
- Please keep your video on. This helps us build community, since we are working together from a distance.
- Find a place to sit comfortably during class, with limited distractions and/or background noise.
- Stabilize your device so it doesn't bounce around.
- Be professional. We aren't physically together, but we're still in school. Treat it as such.
- Put your cell phone aside to focus fully on the lesson and minimize distractions.
- Engagement is critical to learning! Answer questions, ask questions, participate!
- Breakout rooms: Stay focused and on task. Participate with your team and contribute meaningfully.

ADDITIONAL POLICIES

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty (cheating) will **NOT** be tolerated! If you are suspected of cheating on **ANY** assignment (tests, quizzes, homework, class activities, etc.), you will receive a **ZERO** on that assignment. Academic dishonesty is defined as (but not limited to) giving and receiving answers during tests and quizzes, copying another student's work, and/or plagiarizing copyrighted work. Parents and/or admin will also be notified as appropriate.

Additional Assistance

If you need additional help, please ask! Ms. Riley is available via zoom during asynchronous class time, during Monday zoom office hours (9-10am), or via email/Google Classroom message.