



South Texas ISD

# Preparatory Academy

GRADES 7-8 | EDINBURG

## Biology

Mr. A. Garza  
Room 201  
Conference period: 1A and 4B  
School phone number: (956) 381-5522 ext. 2646  
E-mail: [alfredo.garza@stisd.net](mailto:alfredo.garza@stisd.net)

### Course Description

Biology is the study of the living world, including microscopic organisms, fungi, plants, and animals. In Biology it is important to attempt to understand the life processes of organisms. This biology course, therefore, is aimed at introducing principles and concepts that apply to life at all levels of organization, no matter how simple or complex they may be. Our study begins by examining those general characteristics that are shared by all living things. These include similarities in chemical makeup, energy usage, ability to reproduce and community involvement. In addition, the following themes will be developed as the course progresses:

- Relatedness among living things.
- Adaptation for survival among living things.
- The interactions of living things with their environment.

### Adopted Textbook

2015. Texas Biology. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

### Materials

5-Subject Spiral Notebook (200 page college ruled)  
Composition Book (100 page), Pens and Pencils  
Sticky notes/post-it notes  
Highlighter  
Colored pencils  
Adhesive (glue and/or clear tape)

### Grading

50% of the course average will come from tests  
30% of the course average will come from quizzes (cover concepts discussed throughout single chapter)  
20% of the course average will come from daily work

75% of course average is calculated from the weighted categories described above and 25% from a cumulative semester exam. Student must pass the STARR Biology End-of Course Exam, **which will be an online administered exam**, to receive credit for the course. Final year-end exam exemption may apply if students attain EOC Masters Grade Level. Academic Contracts for credit recovery will not be offered at the end of semester.



South Texas ISD

# Preparatory Academy

GRADES 7-8 | EDINBURG

## Daily work guidelines

Homework/classwork is due at the time designated by the teacher, "the due date/time". A student absent on a day work is assigned or due shall be given the same amount of time to complete or submit the assignment as the rest of the class. A student failing to submit homework or complete class work at the due date/time will incur a 15-point penalty, any late work turned in after the beginning of the next class meeting will incur a 50 point penalty. The student may submit the completed although late work for up to a total 50 points so long it is submitted before the next test day.

## Lab Work

Most lab work will be a team effort. Each member of a team is expected to contribute towards achieving the lab objectives. For the safety of the student and others, any student not following lab safety procedures will be removed from the lab and given an alternate assignment and/or disciplinary action at the discretion of the instructor.

## Tests and Quizzes

Quizzes are designed to monitor the students' progress and will be administered on a regular basis. They may be announced or unannounced. Students may not retake quizzes.

Tests will be scheduled after every major topic (generally 1-2 chapters). Students may retake any test for which they have scored below 70 one time, it will be an alternate test on a designated day; the maximum score on a retake is 70. Students will be required to attend tutoring before retaking a test and must retake the test within five school days.

There are no retakes given for the Semester Exam. Academic contracts for credit recovery will not be issued at the end of the year.

## Pyramid of Interventions

The objective of this class is for every student to be successful in demonstrating mastery of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Students not successfully progressing will be assisted using the pyramid of interventions. These interventions may include special class activities and assignments and/or required tutoring during the school day or after school.

Teacher

Principal

I have received a copy of this course outline.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature