

11th Grade Biology and Environmental Science

High Tech High Chula Vista

2016-2017 Syllabus

“Nature holds the key to our aesthetic, intellectual, cognitive and even spiritual satisfaction.”

— Edward O. Wilson

Instructor: Nick Ehlers
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Office hours: Mon-Thurs (by appointment) 3:30-4:30pm

Location: Room: 159

Essential Questions:

- What can we learn from the death of wildlife?
- How do the anatomy and physiology of marine/terrestrial mammals compare and contrast to our human body?
- How can we mitigate roadkill and marine wildlife strandings in San Diego and beyond?

Weekly Routines:

Mondays – On call to pickup roadkill/strandings, Weekly Personal Reflections (WPR) share, anatomy/physiology reading packet and Visual Vocabulary.

Tuesdays – On call, honors (SAT II Biology (E/M) preparation), Be Proud Be Responsible (BPBR) course (pod one: 9:30-10:25am, pod two: 10:30-11:25, afterschool class: 3:35-4:30pm).

Wednesdays – WiLD Wednesdays (ecology hikes), internship preparation.

Thursdays – On call, in class reading/Journal Entry, and reading review and discussion.

Fridays – On call, WPR (take home and present to parents/guardians), and project work time.

Personal Reflections and Assessment:

In my classroom I strive to cultivate a culture of self-reflection and personal growth through Weekly Personal Reflections (WPRs) and student conversations with parental guardian(s). In doing so, every Friday students will be given biology class time to fill out their WPRs. During the weekend, students are required to have a conversation with their parent(s) about their week in biology class and get their WPR signed (parent comments are also encouraged). After this conversation, students (on their own – no parents involved please) will reflect on their week and provide a numerical value (out of 50) that demonstrates their weekly personal growth in biology class (taking into account their personal goals, project work time, participation, attendance, labs, readings, and discussions). This number is not absolute and may lead into a conversation between the student and me (taking into account my in-class observations and student work).

Late work policy:

When students are absent, they are responsible to get the agenda of what they missed by asking a peer. Students that are absent on the due date of a major assignment are expected to submit the assignment whether they are on campus or not. This can be achieved by peers or parents/guardians if the student cannot submit it themselves. If an assignment can be submitted by email it must be received on the due date. Technical difficulties are not a valid excuse. Assignments that are not submitted at the beginning of class will be considered late. If an assignment is late and you are willing to do the work, you can still turn in the late assignments for half credit up to one week after the due date. Beyond one week, the assignment will not receive credit. All class work is to be completed by the end of class unless assigned as homework.

Grade Breakdown

A=90-100%, B=80-89%, C=70-79%, D=60-69%, F=below 60%
(At HTHCV, both a D and F are not considered passing).

Honors Option

Each core class of junior year has an honors option. In my mind, Honors is a challenge that builds and deepens current project/class work understanding.

For further information on the specific Honors assignments and requirements please refer to the Biology Honors Contract. In my class, all students are considered in honors from day one. If you decide you do not want to take honors, then you must opt out by the specified date on the Biology Honors Contract. Please note that once that date passes, then the student has agreed to participate in Honors for the entire semester, they **CANNOT** drop out of Honors.

Tentative Course Outline (First Semester)

Due to the nature and design of Project Based Learning, the following timeline is subject to changes, additions, and revisions.

Week	Topics
Week 1: Aug 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Community building- Room design- Imperial Beach yoga and celebration!
Week 2: Sept 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- No school Monday (Labor Day)- Human Impacts on Local Wildlife project launch- Honors 1- In class reading/Journal Entry 1- WPR 1
Week 3: Sept 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Anatomy/physiology reading packet and Visual Vocabulary 1- Honors 2- BPBR 1 (Marcy/Hillary)- Open House on Wednesday- In class reading/Journal Entry 2- WPR 2
Week 4: Sept 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Anatomy/physiology reading packet and Visual Vocabulary 2- Honors 3- BPBR 2 (Marcy/Hillary)- Ocean Institute cruise and labs overnight (Thurs-Fri)- WPR 3
Week 5: Sept 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Anatomy/physiology reading packet and Visual Vocabulary 3- Honors 4- BPBR 3 (Marcy/Hillary)- In class reading/Journal Entry 3- WPR 4
Week 6: Oct 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Anatomy/physiology reading packet and Visual Vocabulary 4- Honors 5- BPBR 4 (Marcy/Hillary)- In class reading/Journal Entry 4- WPR 5
Week 7: Oct 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Anatomy/physiology reading packet and Visual Vocabulary 5- Honors 6- WiLDCOAST Cruises (one pod Wed, other Thurs)- No school Friday (Fall Holiday)

Week 8: Oct 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anatomy/physiology reading packet and Visual Vocabulary 6 - Honors 7 - BPBR 5 (Marcy/Hillary) - In class reading/Journal Entry 5 - No school Friday (Staff Day)
Week 9: Oct 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anatomy/physiology reading packet and Visual Vocabulary 7 - Honors 8 - Minimum Day on Tuesday and Wednesday (SLCs) - In class reading/Journal Entry 6 - WPR 6
Week 10: Oct 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anatomy and physiology exam study guide - Honors 9 - BPBR 6 (Marcy/Hillary) - Minimum Day on Wednesday (staff development) - In class reading/Journal Entry 7 - WPR 7
Week 11: Nov 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BPBR 7 (Marcy/Hillary) - Anatomy and physiology exam (Thurs) - No school Friday (Veteran's Day)
Week 12: Nov 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BPBR 8 (Marcy/Hillary) - Advisory Olympics on Wednesday - In class reading/Journal Entry 8 - WPR 8
Week 13: Nov 21-25	- Thanksgiving Holiday
Week 14: Nov 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No school Monday (Staff Day) - BPBR 9 (Marcy/Hillary) - Minimum Day on Wednesday (staff development) - In class reading/Journal Entry 9
Week 15: Dec 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BPBR Q/A (Marcy/Hillary) - In class reading/Journal Entry 10 - WPR 9 (optional and may replace an existing or missing grade)
Week 16: Dec 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - POLs - Minimum Day on Friday
Week 17: Dec 19-Jan 2	Winter Break

The Constitution of the State of California requires that we provide a public education to you free of charge. Subject to certain exceptions, your right to a free public education means that we cannot require you or your family to purchase materials, supplies, equipment or uniforms for any school activity.

Many families have been asking what supplies their child may need during this school year. Below, I have a recommended list of supplies that your child may bring to school. **Please note that if your child does not bring the recommended supplies, the school will provide the supplies for him/her.** If you have any questions/comments about this, please contact me, or Tim McNamara, our school director. Thank you.

Recommended Supplies:

1. A hiking wardrobe (supportive shoes, hiking pants, hiking shirt, and hat), sunscreen (if you can, please bring extras for our classroom sunscreen supply), a day pack (normal school backpack works), and a re-usable water bottle that stays in our classroom for weekly use.
2. A Composition Lab Notebook for field research (provided).
3. Several pencils and pens.

Parent Support

Junior year is arguably the most challenging year in a student's high school career. In addition to academics, students will be balancing internships, community service, SAT/ACT test preparation and preparation for the college application process. This can be an overwhelming and stressful time for students, parents and teachers, which is why it is extremely important that students, parents and teachers work together to cultivate successful academic and social behavior. By providing a favorable study environment, accountability, encouragement and consistently (not excessively) accessing Powerschool, parents play a vital role in their student's education.

Internship

Junior Internship and all the work building up to it are graduation requirements at HTHCV. All juniors will go on a four-week academic internship in the spring semester (**5/8/17 - 6/2/17**). We are encouraging students to find their own internship, but we will work with students on how to do that. To help students prepare for internships, workshops will be held throughout the year during class time. Students who do not complete assignments and/or satisfactorily complete an internship hourly experience will not be allowed to graduate from HTHCV.

We are encouraging students (and family/friends) to start thinking about their networks and connections immediately to ensure a meaningful internship is secured in a timely fashion. There will be updates throughout the year, but it is most important for students to know how important this requirement is, and how much we rely on them to be positive representatives of our school while on internship.

11th Grade Biology and Environmental Science Student & Parent Agreement

Learning Contract

Please thoroughly review this class' syllabus (on Mr. Nick's DP). Then please complete and sign the following document and return it to Nick for entry into your student file.

For students:

I, _____ (*student*) fully understand the classroom expectations and agree to do my best to follow them in order to create an environment conducive to the learning of others and myself.

Signed,

_____ Date: _____

For parents/guardians:

I, _____ (*parent/guardian*) fully understand the classroom expectations and agree to do my best to support my student in following them. I also agree to communicate with Nick Ehlers if I have any questions or concerns.

Signed,

_____ Date: _____

Additional Questions, Comments or Concerns:
