**2012-2013 Ecology/Zoology Syllabus**

**ASTEC Charter High School**

**Teacher:** Mrs. Jill Carson

**Email:** jcarson@asteccharterschools.com

**Website:** http://www.mrscarsonbiology.weebly.com

**Plan Period:** 12:35-1:25 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday

**Phone number:** 947-6274

**Textbook:**

Miller, Kenneth & Levine, Joseph. Biology. Prentice-Hall, Inc., 5th edition

**Course Objectives:**

* Define ecology.
* Examine the levels of life on planet earth: organism, population, community, ecosystem, biome, and biosphere.
* Learn the vocabulary of ecology.
* Examine the habitat, niche, and trophic level of organisms.
* Interpret the types of population growth and the factors that affect it.
* Observe and measure community interactions including symbiosis, predation, and competition.
* Determine the relationship among trophic structure, food chains, food webs, and ecological pyramids.
* Interpret matter recycling including the water, nitrogen, carbon, and phosphorous cycles.
* Characterize the terrestrial and aquatic biomes.
* Investigate and determine the impact of humans on other organisms and the environment.
* Examine the contributions of Rachel Carson.

**Required Materials:**

* 5 subject notebook with pocket folders (bell work, lab reports, notes, daily activities)
* Notecards with and without lines
* Pencil or black ink pen
* Various materials will be needed for projects through out the course. A minimum of a week notice will be given to students.

**Attendance Policy and Classroom Expectations**:

* Attendance is crucial to the learning process. Students should be in the classroom working on the Starter Activity before the last bell rings. If a student is absent, it is his/her responsibility to obtain information regarding the missing assignments in a timely manner. Refer to student handbook for more information.
* Cheating will result in a loss of assignment credit, a call to the parent, and a referral to the principal.
* Students are expected to participate in all lab activities and use the equipment as it is intended. If any misuse should occur, the student is responsible for replacing the equipment and/or supplies.

**Assessment/Grading:**

Grading:

90-100: A 60-69: D

80-89: B Below 59: F

70-79 C

**Category Weights**

40% Assessments

30% Projects/Lab

20% Daily Activities (discussion, homework, daily work, starters, and participation)

10% Semester Final Exam

Semester 1

**Assessments:**

3 Unit Tests, 3x100=300 points

10 Quizzes, 10x20= 200 points

2 Benchmarks, 2x10=20 points **Projects/Lab:**

5 Projects, 5x50=250 points

5 Lab Activities, 5x10=50 points

5 Lab Reports, 5x10=50 points

**Daily Activities:**

15 Daily Activities, 15x10=150 points\*

**Semester Final:**

1 Final Exam, 1x200=200 points

Semester 2

**Assessments:**

4 Unit Tests, 4x100=400 points

12 Quizzes, 12x20=240 points

2 Benchmarks, 2x10=20 points **Projects/Lab:**

6 Projects, 6x50=300 points

6 Lab Activities, 6x10=60 points

6 Lab Reports, 6x10=60 points

**Daily Activities:**

18 Daily Activities, 18x10=180 points\*

**Semester Final:**

1 Final Exam, 1x200=200 points

\*(At the end of each week, you will get a grade based on a rubric.)

An explanation of each of the assignments and a space to enter your grade is on the sheet that follows this syllabus. In order to be able to calculate your grade, you will be required to keep track of every grade and enter it on the sheet provided. This is to be kept in your notebook at all times.

**Teaching Strategies**

* **Lectures/Discussions:** Power points and the use of the smart board are used to provide a basis for discussion.
* **Assessments:** Assessments are used as a basis for checking understanding and remediation. Be prepared to defend your answers with reason and facts.
* **Homework Reading & Note- taking:** Students are expected to use the Cornell Note-taking method or Concept mapping for homework reading assignments. Notes will be checked weekly to make sure you are keeping up with the reading assignments and are recording ideas of what you read.
* **Grand Conversations:** This is a group discussion method that includes students bringing at least five questions and five comments based on a reading assignment or topic on which the group discussion will be based. We form tables in a conference-like manner and students take turns either presenting a question or comment of theirs while classmates delve into discussions based on each question or comment. Points are given for turning in questions and comments, discussion participation, and notes taken during the group discussion.
* **Group Presentations:** Since students tend to learn better from teaching others, periodically various topics will be assigned to individual students or small groups of students on which they are to put together a PowerPoint presentation or a quick lecture to present to the rest of the class. (Group grades should not be weighted in such a way that it affects an individual student grade. In other words, each person will be graded on his or her part of the presentation.)
* **Peer Reading Circles:** Student essays will be handed out to different students in the class and students will score and comment on each essay using the appropriate rubrics. Students are usually required to read and score at least 3 different student essays within a class period. Comments and scores are then given to the student to see how their peers scored them and offer constructive criticism to each other. The final homework grade comes from the teacher.

These are examples of the type of activities that will make up the bulk of the class. If you or your parent has any questions, please fill free to contact me. The best way to reach me is by e-mail.

**Semester 1 Grade Register**

**Ecology**

**Assessments**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. **/100**
 | 1. **/100**
 | 1. **/100**
 |
| 1. **/20**
 | 1. **/20**
 | 1. **/20**
 |
| 1. **/20**
 | 1. **/20**
 | 1. **/20**
 |
| 1. **/20**
 | 1. **/20**
 | 1. **/20**
 |
| 1. **/20**
 | 1. **/10**
 | 1. **/10**
 |

**Total test points /520 = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ x .40 =\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Projects/Lab Activities/Lab Reports**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. **/50**
 | 1. **/50**
 | 1. **/50**
 |
| 1. **/50**
 | 1. **/50**
 | 1. **/10**
 |
| 1. **/10**
 | 1. **/10**
 | 1. **/10**
 |
| 1. **/10**
 | 1. **/10**
 | 1. **/10**
 |
| 1. **/10**
 | 1. **/10**
 | 1. **/10**
 |

**Total Project points /300 = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ x .30 =\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Daily Assignments**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1. /10** | **4. /10** | **7. /10** | **10. /10** | **13. /10** |
| **2. /10** | **5. /10** | **8. /10** | **11. /10** | **14. /10** |
| **3. /10** | **6. /10** | **9. /10** | **12. /10** | **15. /10** |

 **Total D. A. points /150 =\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_x .20 = \_\_\_\_\_**

**Semester Test**

**Final Test /200= \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ x .10=\_\_\_\_\_**

FINAL SCORE (Add right hand column)  **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Semester 2 Grade Register**

**Zoology**

**Assessments**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. **/100**
 | 1. **/100**
 | 1. **/100**
 |
| 1. **/100**
 | 1. **/20**
 | 1. **/20**
 |
| 1. **/20**
 | 1. **/20**
 | 1. **/20**
 |
| 1. **/20**
 | 1. **/20**
 | 1. **/20**
 |
| 1. **/20**
 | 1. **/20**
 | 1. **/20**
 |
| 1. **/20**
 | 1. **/10**
 | 1. **/10**
 |

**Total test points /660 = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ x .40 =\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Projects/Lab Activities/Lab Reports**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. **/50**
 | 1. **/50**
 | 1. **/50**
 |
| 1. **/50**
 | 1. **/50**
 | 1. **/50**
 |
| 1. **/10**
 | 1. **/10**
 | 1. **/10**
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| 1. **/10**
 | 1. **/10**
 | 1. **/10**
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| 1. **/10**
 | 1. **/10**
 | 1. **/10**
 |
| 1. **/10**
 | 1. **/10**
 | 1. **/10**
 |

**Total Project points /420 = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ x .30 =\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Daily Assignments**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1. /10** | **4. /10** | **7. /10** | **10. /10** | **13. /10** | **16. /10** |
| **2. /10** | **5. /10** | **8. /10** | **11. /10** | **14. /10** | **17. /10** |
| **3. /10** | **6. /10** | **9. /10** | **12. /10** | **15. /10** | **18. /10** |

 **Total D. A. points /180 =\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_x .20 = \_\_\_\_\_**

**Semester Test**

**Final Test /200= \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ x .10=\_\_\_\_\_**

FINAL SCORE (Add right hand column)  **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Record of Daily Assignments**

**Daily Assignment Rubric for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the week # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 **1 pt. 2pts.**

**1. On time every day \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_**

**2. Notes are neat and complete \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_**

**3. On task \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_**

**4. Bell work thoughtfully done \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_**

**5. Contributed positively to class \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_**

 **Total\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Notes:**

**Record of Daily Assignments**

**Daily Assignment Rubric for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the week # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 **1 pt. 2pts.**

**1. On time every day \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_**

**2. Notes are neat and complete \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_**

**3. On task \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_**

**4. Bell work thoughtfully done \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_**

**5. Contributed positively to class \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_**

 **Total\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Notes:**