**Biology I Syllabus and Expectations 2023-2024**

**Biology Department, Helena High School**

**Teacher**

Jamie O’Malley

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Teacher webpage: [Jamie O'Malleys HHS webpage](https://staff.helenaschools.org/staff_page/jomalley/?preview=true)

**Course Description**

Biology I is a survey course for sophomores which requires hands-on lab investigations, teamwork, and a curiosity for the way living things work. Over the course of the year, we will cover life science topics including the nature of science, ecology, biochemistry, cells, genetics, evolution, and the classification of organisms from microbes to complex animals.

**Bio I Scope and Sequence 2022-23**

**Fall Semester Spring Semester**

Unit 1 – Nature of Science Unit 4— Cell Structure and Function

Unit 2— Ecology Unit 5— Genetics and Heredity

Unit 3— Biochemistry Unit 6 – Evolution and Classification

**Notice: Human Sexuality Instruction**

In Biology class we will be discussing sexual and asexual reproduction in all living things.

**Textbooks and Resources**

* Miller, Kenneth R., and Joseph S. Levine. Miller & Levine Biology. Boston: Pearson, 2010. Print.
* CK-12 Biology for High School FlexBook® <https://flexbooks.ck12.org/cbook/ck-12-biology-flexbook-2.0/>
* InquiryHub Biology. University of Colorado Boulder. <https://www.colorado.edu/program/inquiryhub/curricula/inquiryhub-biology>

**Materials and Supplies** The following materials are required for each student.

* Charged computer
* Computer charger
* Pencils and pens
* Notebook paper
* Notebook specific to biology class (I will occasionally collect these and keep them for a few days)
* Folder to store biology papers

**Teacher Responsibilities**

* Provide lessons that meet various learning styles to improve understanding, knowledge, and critical thinking abilities.
* Provide feedback on assignments and update grades regularly in PowerSchool.
* Respond promptly to questions (within 24 hours on weekdays) and provide office hours daily for student interactions online and in person (2:20-2:50).
* Provide a weekly agenda.

**Student Responsibilities**
Each student and guardian should read this syllabus and the Academic Integrity document, which is posted on the Helena High Website and linked to this document. Please submit after reading to indicate understanding of classroom expectations.

* **Be a graduate!** Earn a High School diploma. Once credits are complete take classes that interest you. These classes will help increase your chances of success, your knowledge, and may provide ideas for future professions and/or hobbies.
* **Be Involved!** Actively participate in class, clubs and/or activity, and volunteer in the community. I know this is difficult this year but try to be as involved as possible.
* **Be Respectful!** Be a positive role model by modeling kindness and acceptance. Treat each other, the teacher, classroom materials, other school personnel, and technology with respect.
* **Be Responsible!** Bring class materials each day. Be in your assigned seat BEFORE the bell rings. Have your pencil, biology notebook, and computer on your desk, and backpack under the desk. Once seated login to the Microsoft Teams page unless directed otherwise. Engage in each activity to help improve ALL styles of learning and understand the content. **Keep your phone in your backpack!**

**Parent/Guardian Responsibilities** Research shows that engaging in your child’s education improves student achievement, behavior, attendance, and graduation rates! Ask your student what they are learning at school. Contact me to discuss any issues with your child’s education. If your child is going through stress or a challenging time, please make the school counselor and/or teachers aware so we can better work with your child. Ask your student for their Teams password to access all weekly schedules and assignments.

**Grading**
The grading scale is as follows: A: 90-100%; B-80-89%; C: 70-79%; D: 60-69% F: below 60%.
The semester grade will be calculated as follows Quarter 1 (45%), Q2 (45%) and final exam (10%). Students must pass both quarters to earn a passing grade in Biology.
Based on daily work, quizzes, tests, projects, labs, and written assignments.
Assignments that are **less than one week late** may receive up to **70% of the assignment score (C-)**. Assignments that are **greater than one week late** will receive **50% of the assignment score (F)**. Once a new unit begins, assignments from the previous unit will not be accepted; however, students are still required to understand the content. Grades will be updated in Powerschool weekly.

**Absences**

If you are **absent** check Teams and continue the daily lesson. Please contact teacher if an extension is needed. Assignments are also available in the classroom “Absent Work” folders by the door. It is your responsibility to check what assignments you missed when you were absent. Please understand that you are responsible for making up assignments when you’ve missed class. Saying “But I was gone”, is not an excuse to get out of doing classwork. We do an activity or assignment in class every day; try not to miss out!

**Classroom Laboratory Safety**

Please follow the following safety requirements for all science lab activities.

* Prepare for each lab according to the teacher’s directions. (Listen carefully, read pre-lab and directions, etc.)
* Review all safety precautions prior to beginning any activity. If you do not understand these requirements, ask for clarification.
* Remain at YOUR lab station, except to gather materials. Wandering to other areas in the room is not allowed.
* No Horseplay! Any horseplay (including wandering around the classroom during labs) will result in a zero for that day’s lab activity and removal for the classroom. More than one offense may result in removal from all laboratory activities and removal from the classroom until a parent/guardian meeting is completed.
* Long hair should be tied back. Keep hair ties in your backpack.
* Hanging necklaces, heavy jewelry, and baggy clothes should not be worn during labs. Closed-toed shoes will be required.
* Backpacks should be under the desk each day in the classroom, including during labs.
* Food and beverages are not allowed in the science classrooms at any time. Lunch and nutrition break are the only exceptions. Before lunch begins desks should be cleaned and hands should be washed or sanitized.
* Never taste or smell any lab materials or chemicals!
* Before leaving the lab area clean up materials thoroughly and sanitize equipment (microscopes, scales, etc.).
* Know locations of eyewash, sinks, emergency gas shut off, fire blanket, and other safety equipment.
* ALL accidents and spills should be reported to the teacher immediately.

**Academic Integrity**
Please follow the [link](https://hhs.helenaschools.org/departments/academic-integrity-policy-at-helena-high-school/) to the Helena High webpage to find and read the HHS Academic Integrity Document. We have approximately 180 days together to teach and learn about biology. Please use them to increase your own understanding of the world around you! Copying your friend’s answers is not learning! Also, are you sure you’re copying the correct answers?

**About Your Teacher**

I am originally from Whidbey Island, WA but have lived near Winston, MT for close to 12 years. I have two herd dogs, two cats and approximately 40 chickens.  I taught Biology and Math at North Kitsap High School for one year and Biology and AP Biology at Sultan High School for 6.5 years. After moving to Montana, I was the Director of Education at ExplorationWorks, and taught STEM at Starbase for 1.5 years. I have been teaching at HHS for seven years. Here at HHS I have taught Chemistry 1, AP Chemistry, and Biology. I am also the advisor for Key Club and Science Olympiad. I have several years’ experience working in a laboratory in Seattle performing microbiology quality control and immunology research, as well as providing support materials for chemical and biological testing at the Montana DPHHS. My most challenging career to date was being a stay-at-home mom for close to seven years.

I enjoy hiking, camping, fishing, gardening, hunting, riding horses, winter sports, and of course, teaching! I have been married to Dan O'Malley for 28 years. We have two kids, Jake and Katie, who graduated from HHS in 2016 and 2017.  Katie lives in Bozeman and is a 2022 graduate of MSU with a degree in Graphic Design. Jake lives in Missoula with his Schnauzer puppy Otto and works in the insurance technology industry.

**Note to Parents Regarding Cell Phones**

The biggest challenge I face as a teacher is the cell phone distraction. I try to make the class fun and engaging, but cannot compete with Tik Tok, Snapchat, gaming, etc. Students fall behind quickly and miss instruction when they are staring at their phones, and I end up repeating myself over and over during the day because they were playing video games or streaming videos instead of listening and participating. Constantly asking students to put away their phones is frustrating, and I would love support from home to keep students phones in their backpacks.

Please sign the syllabus signature page and turn it into the classroom inbox.