

Syllabus for Biology  
Academic Year 2017-18  
Gregg Thompson, Instructor  
[gthompson@westminsterknights.org](mailto:gthompson@westminsterknights.org)

### Course Description

In this course I hope to cultivate a love of God and his creation by providing the opportunity for each student to encounter and make observations of the living systems of this creation (or a model of those systems when necessary), to form ideas based on those observations, to compare and contrast those ideas with the ideas of masters, and finally to share their ideas with others both inside and outside the class.

### Course Goals

It is my desire that each student finish the year with an increased scientific vocabulary and the ability to use it, an increased understanding of the natural world, an increased ability to think creatively and scientifically, and an increased knowledge of the relationship between General Revelation and Special Revelation.

### Texts

No text will be used. Selected readings and articles will be distributed as needed to supplement classroom discussions and labs.

### Class Requirements

Students will need a sketchbook, a spiral notebook, a 3-ringed binder (optional), and a writing implement of their choice. All sketches must be done in pencil.

### Grading Rubric

Quiz: Quizzes will be in one of two forms, vocabulary or content. Students should be able to define terms and explain basic concepts. Vocab quizzes will be administered toward the beginning of the week and will average 16-24 points.

Sketchbooks: Lab assignments will be checked for completion and organization/neatness one or two days after a lab is completed. Assignments in the sketchbook (eg. nature observation) will be checked periodically based on content (detail and accuracy) and form.

Tests: There will be two major tests per quarter. These tests are worth 100 points and are cumulative for that quarter.

Mid-term and Final: A major cumulative exam will be given at the end of each semester. These are worth 100 points each and account for a percentage of the semester grade while not affecting the quarterly grades.

#### Late Work

Late work is subject to an 11% per day penalty. Work that is turned in late due to an absence has a two day grace period before a penalty is assessed.

#### Absences

Students who are absent are responsible for obtaining from a classmate the notes and assignments they missed. Once they have reviewed these they may come to me for clarification if necessary.

#### Tutoring/Help

I will be available during the scheduled tutorial times or, often, before school.

#### Academic Integrity

Though the nature of the inquiry based education in this class is one of group labs and discussions, it is expected that when each student hands in work with their name on it they can confidently say that the work is theirs. True education occurs when a student engages the material, striving for mastery and not just a good grade.

Dates Important to Remember:

First Quarter Tests	8/31 10/5	
Second Quarter Tests	11/2 12/7	Midterm TBA
Third Quarter Tests	2/1 3/1	
Fourth Quarter Tests	4/5 5/10	Final TBA

Outline for the Year

Week #	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
W1	Chem of Life	Bryophytes	DNA structure	Respiration/Excretion
W2	Cells	Pterophytes	Transcription	Digestive
W3	Cells	Gymnosperms	Translation	Immune
W4	Monerans	Angiosperms	Mitosis/Meiosis	Endocrine
W5	Protists	Angiosperms	Tissues/Skin	Reproduction
W6	Lichens	Angiosperms	Skeleton	Evolution/Origins
W7	Fungi	Photosynthesis	Muscles	Evolution/Origins
W8	Green Plants	Cell Respiration	Nervous	Evolution/Origins
W9	Green Plants		Circulation	

In all of these subjects we will focus on observation, classification, and ecology. Discussions of evolution and creation will be frequent.



I have read this syllabus and understand the expectations and structure of this class.

Student:

---

I have read this syllabus with my son/daughter and will help them as appropriate and necessary to fulfill the outlined requirements.

Parent:

---

Please sign, detach, and return to Mr. Thompson.