

GENERAL SCIENCE SYLLABUS

INSTRUCTOR: Ms. Martinez
ROOM: D2009
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WEBSITE: www.geocities.com/buhsmsm (may occasionally be beneficial)

Course Description:

The main goal of this course is to provide each student with the fundamentals of physics, chemistry, geology, meteorology and astronomy. Scientific principles will be developed and explored. Real-world examples and hands on learning will be emphasized. It is hoped that this knowledge will encourage further appreciation and curiosity about the natural world.

Required for Course (as a minimum)

- An energetic student, eager to explore, in depth, the wonders of science.
- Sense of humor and alert mind for survival; the desire and willingness to work hard and independently.
- Materials (to include but not limited to):
 - 3-ring binder with five section dividers labeled as ref. sheets, test/quiz, CW, lab, notes
 - composition notebook for labs
 - pencils/pens (ink must be dark blue or black for work that is turned in)
 - loose leaf paper
 - 3.5 disc or cd that is format (keep in mind that not only must the assignment be on the disc/cd but it must also be able to be opened using school software, etc.)
 - project supplies i.e. scissors, colored pencils/markers (no permanent markers per district policy), paints, glue, tape, string, poster board, ruler, etc.

Teaching Philosophy

"Teachers open the door, but you must enter by yourself." ---Chinese proverb

Each student who earns an A will receive one; Extra effort is necessary to maintain an A; grades will not be curved. All students will be treated equally and given the same opportunities.

Academic Misconduct

Because the learning process takes place in an environment of mutual respect and trust, I anticipate that students will conduct themselves in an ethical manner in the student role. Students should be familiar with the BUHS student handbook and should particularly recall the following concerning academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to:

1. Looking on another student's answer sheet during an examination, quiz, or writing assignment.
2. Allowing another student to look on the student's answer sheet during an examination, quiz, or writing assignment.
3. Using notes, in any form, during an examination or quiz (without instructor permission).
4. Unauthorized removal of an exam.
5. Making copies of any questions on an examination or quiz.
6. Plagiarism (literary theft) in a paper.

Incidents of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of zero for that quiz, examination, or paper.

CLASS WORK/ASSIGNMENTS

Activities will include class discussions and presentations, lecture notes and handouts, cooperative group work, and assignments covering lessons. Approximately 20% of class time will be in the form of labs/activities in an effort to reinforce information being covered. Students will be required to turn in a lab report in the proper format for every lab.

Extra credit is rarely given. When it is given, it is academically related and will take effort on the part of the student. Although I want all of my students to attain an A in my class, I ethically cannot allow this to happen because of extra-credit; this would be a disservice to my students.

My standing policy is to not accept late work. This may seem a stringent policy but in the long run benefits the student. Obviously, there are unique times when a situation arises, if this is the cause of an assignment not being in, the student must inform me or I will adhere to my no late work policy. Whether I allow the work to be turned in late is purely up to my discretion in all situations.

Assignments that are given more than one day to be completed are expected to be turned in on time. If the student will be absent on the day such an assignment is due, it is the student's responsibility to get the assignment in by the due time. Suggestions of how to do this might include having a sibling, friend, or parent bring in the assignment, fax it in, in some cases - email it in, etc. In the case of electronic submission: keep in mind that with electronic pathways, errors happen. If you choose to use this means and I do not receive it on time or at all, this is your responsibility, not mine.

EVALUATION

Students will be evaluated based on class work, assignments, quizzes, notes, tests, classroom behavior, participation and ethics, and projects as appropriate.

GRADING

Assignments/labs/projects	20 %
Research paper/presentation	20 %
Tests/quizzes	20 %
Participation/class points	20 %
<u>Final/midterm</u>	<u>20 %</u>
	100 %

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

A	90% or above
B	80 – 89.99 %
C	70 – 79.99 %
D	60 – 69.99 %
F	0 – 59.99 %

ATTENDANCE

Students must attend class regularly to perform well on exams. Material and discussions may be presented in class that cannot be found in the text. You are responsible for obtaining any course work or schedule changes missed during absences. Poor attendance may negatively affect your final grade. Laboratory attendance is even more critical. Make up labs will rarely be considered.

WORK ETHIC

Students are expected to come to class on time; prepared to work. I do not give out grades...you earn them. Failure to show good work ethic could affect your grade. Although attaining an A may not be easy, it is within the student's ability. Your grade is your responsibility. No assignment will be given that is beyond your academic means.

"Be not afraid of greatness. Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon 'em."

-William Shakespeare