

Pre-AICE 2020-2021

Course Description:

Cambridge Pre-AICE (IGSCE) Biology is the first step and highly suggested pre-requisite to the full Cambridge AICE Biology (AS) course that students have the option of taking for a science point within the Cambridge AICE diploma program. This course is designed to foster skills to encourage the systematic solving of problems and effective communication of ideas with biological themes. Pre-AICE is designated and scored as an honors-level course and students will meet all requirements for a regular or honors-level biology state curriculum. The course features opportunities for working with lab materials such as general equipment, advanced lab techniques, and chemical analysis. This course will also prepare students adequately for the respective **Florida Biology EOC (End-of-Course) examination**. *This exam constitutes 30% of the student's final grade for biology.*

It is important to note that Pre-AICE does not provide college credit or satisfy a science point towards the overall Cambridge AICE diploma. However, successful completion of the Pre-AICE course is considered necessary to qualify students to enter the full AS-level course. Any questions can be directed to the in-school Cambridge office; 4-307 phone number (386) 968-0013 ext. 46316. Email communications can also be sent to the program coordinator Mr. William Lastowski at wmlastow@volusia.k12.fl.us.

Textbook:

Cambridge IGSCE Biology (3rd Edition) by Mary Jones and Geoff Jones

**I have chosen all students to have been assigned a textbook. You are responsible for your personal copy.*

Grading Guidelines:

District Specific

All grading complies with the District of Volusia County grading guidelines for Secondary Schools. This can be found at, www.vcsedu.org/K-12-Curriculum/department-resources (Under "general").

Grade calculations are comprised of 40% Formative + 60% Summative. The final State EOC modifies this split to include a 30% weight for the overall course final grade.

Ongoing Assessment

Formatives for the class feature primarily writing-based tasks and questions, ranging from extended response critical questions, to short written response or practice previously released questions and marking schemes. It is important to note that traditional multiple choice or other simple variants are not a heavy feature of this course. Students are accountable to develop their reading comprehension and analysis through extensive use of technical vocabulary and writing mechanics.

Summative exams are at the end of each unit (see schedule). Exams are scheduled well in advance and cover the unit's materials through three key parts: **a multiple-choice section, theory-based written responses**, and generally **one extended response question**. All questions used are historic, previously released questions.

All assigned work is expected to be completed. Students will quickly learn that failure to complete un-graded assignments will *quickly diminish their levels of success in the class*. Everything for IGSCE will re-occur in the AS level course, therefore it is imperative students adapt to the reading and writing demands.

Late/Remediation Policies

Late work should be considered unacceptable. Therefore, **past one day late the highest grade a student will earn will be a 60%** for the assignment.

Missing an exam should be considered *disastrous*. Daily attendance is extremely important for success.

Students can retake one assessment per quarter. The higher grade will be kept, and it must be complete following a remediation process and before ten school days past the original exam date. *Subject to change depending on movement to online/virtual/quarantine.

Communication:

This year, flexibility and personal responsibility are key.

If you need me, **email is best**. I can be reached at tashaw@volusia.k12.fl.us ; this allows me to read and take adequate time to respond to your needs. I do usually read emails over the weekend and occasionally at home, but I usually will only reply during school hours. **This should be the primary source of our communication.**

Please, try to avoid messaging me directly on TEAMS and Canvas. It is easier for me to keep track through email of our conversation, if you happen to message me, I will generally respond to your student email account.

TEAMS Code: **g730w13**

TEAMS Phone number and Extension: 386-734-7190 ext. 76477

Behavior Expectations

Show up. Prepare. Work.

It is likely that the expected bare minimum for participation and success in the course is higher than you expect. Reading, writing, and vocabulary are the fundamental components of the course.

There is a theme to the room and your studies. **Read, Reduce, Recite.**

Read everything - figure out how much time it takes *you* and what environment *you* need.

Reduce information between what you know, what you need to learn and what needs to be repeated.

Recite – repeat, repeat, study, study, practice, practice, *time* is the enemy that makes you forgetful.

Class Rules

1. Speak Appropriately.
2. Act Responsibly.
3. Keep hands to oneself.
4. Demonstrate Respect.

Simply put... You will be held
accountable to a standard.

- Do not take, make, or otherwise engage in phone calls, facetime or non-emergency cellular communication.
- Do not wear your earbuds, Pearpods, or other auditorily inhibiting device during instruction.
- No bags, feet/shoes, rear ends, etc. on tables, this is not the kitchen nor the lounge.
- I would never recommend eating, no matter the state of cleanliness. It is against lab safety.

2020 Sanitary Suggestions and Points of Interest:

- **Due to the size of my classes and the permanent position of the tables, you will always need to wear your mask/PPE.** Make the habit early and do not waiver, if you need a break just ask to go to the restroom and with appropriate distancing in mind take your break.
- I have a sink. Please wash your hands rather than use sanitizer, the beginning of class is best and after touching a piece of shared material or when asked to upon entry.

Mandatory Needs

One College-Ruled Spiral Bound Notebook (70-140 pages is fine, *no massive multisubject*).

- This notebook will be used to answer guided reading questions and will generally always be kept with your textbook. It *usually* will not need to come to class but will only be used for one task.

One College-Ruled Spiral Bound Notebook (70-140 pages is fine, *no massive multisubject*).

- This second notebook will be used for in-class notes. This notebook would generally be the one piece of our class that is recommended most days and will travel back and forth most days.

One College-Ruled Composition Book (Standard sized; ~80sheets, 9.75in x 7.5in)

- The composition book will be used for critical questions and peer review. There will be one critical question assignment for each covered chapter. This book will follow you through to AICE, there are opportunities to store it in class when an upcoming CQ is scheduled.

You should note that each spiral notebook should be a different color. It is my personal preference that one notebook is green, and the other is blue. *I am not going to criticize your color choice*, however if you qualify to claim a seat in the AICE class, you will be utilizing a recommended red and yellow notebook. Therefore, it would help to stay in continuity.

Key Points:

- No massive multisubject.
- No regular/non-college ruled.
- Plain over colorful and fun.
- The composition notebook can be any design, your name will go on an interior cover.

Pencils (#2) and likely a bigger eraser for inevitable mistakes.

- I will not be able to offer a community cup and can only provide you a pencil for an exam or CQ.

A Black Pen

- For writing assignment and general exams.

A Blue Pen

- For peer review and feedback.

Suggested:

- *Your own* color pencils (highly suggested).
- *Highlighters*. Suggested even by the overall Cambridge program to use in your textbook and notes.
- Tissues, hand sanitizer, general cleaning supplies you feel you would use for yourself.
- Consider a small flash or jump drive to have in case you have to move between online/in-class/quarantined.

Online/Volusia Live/Quarantined

Please create a “**Mr.Shaw - Biology**” folder on your computer in the document sections. Within the folder you should have the following sub-folders:

- A “*Bell Ringers*” folder. You will place weekly word documents in this folder and submit them online.
- A “*Vocab*” folder. You will place weekly vocabulary work documents in this folder and submit them online.
- An “*Assignments*” folder. You will place any assignments downloaded into this folder for access if not online or downloaded through Canvas.
- A “*Completed Assignments*” folder. You should likely keep what you have accomplished saved here to note that it is complete or to quickly access completed work to submit/resubmit when necessary.
- Optional: A “PowerPoint, Notes” folder for when I directly share information or for review before exams.

Let us talk best practice for the online aspects of the class...

Always go to Canvas. It is the hub, it is the submission area, it is access, it will be our focal point.

- When saving from Canvas, make sure to click the “download arrow” and then when prompted, “Save as.” Then, decided where you want the file to go. *Hint... in the correct folder!*
- “Save as” everything. Always tell the computer exactly what you want. If you save as and replace with the same name, it will keep it where it is and simply overwrite the old. Be careful if you have multiple versions.
- Label everything correctly. Seriously! – You MUST organize files with good names. It is a habit that is vital to success. A proper label for this course – for both you and I to be able to understand – follows the templet below:

NAME – ASSIGNMENT TYPE – ASSIGNMENT NAME – DATE (with periods)

For example, if I am downloading or submitting the syllabus online...

Shaw – Form – 2020 Biology Syllabus – 8.31.20

Online “live” aspects of the class will be hosted through the class Microsoft Teams.

- See the second page for the TEAMS code. *I will not auto add you.* I will only auto add you to the Canvas.
- I have no plans to post in teams, it will be used for moderation. Everything will be posted to the class Canvas. If you change modes of instruction, you will need to join the Team.
- **I intend to keep an open class stream going for the respective periods (this year 1st-2nd).** This means the live session will be **open from ~8:25am - ~10:15am.** It is your responsibility to login and leave at your needed time. You should hear the bell, you should see the difference, you should be paying attention to it all on your own. Take responsibility, join late if it happens, no big deal. Attendance will be pulled, and timestamps viewed for entry/leaving.

Student Name: _____ Period: _____

Cambridge Students are...

Confident, Responsive, Reflective, Innovative, Engaged.