Advanced Honors Biology  
Abbott Lawrence Academy  
2017 - 2018

Ms. Kaitlin Dinet  
Phone: (857) 259-4535  
Email: kaitlin.dinet@lawrence.k12.ma.us

Office Hours:  
Classroom: H-103  
Day/Time: Wednesdays, 2:45-4:00pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is designed to serve as an introduction to the fascinating and exciting world of biology. This course will build on your work in Chemistry and Physics to continue to help you to develop both biology content knowledge and scientific exploration and thinking skills necessary to succeed in college level science courses. While traditional biology courses often focus on memorization of facts, this course will push you to develop an understanding of biology through new ways of thinking over the course of the year. You will learn content, but you will learn this content through active exploration and inquiry, hands on lab work, real life problem solving, mock case studies, and engaging and challenging projects. You will study living organisms throughout the year, starting with exploring the most basic components of these living things and working your way towards a conceptual understanding of how these living things interact with the non-living parts of their environment and how they change over time to create the diverse and incredible world we all inhabit.

We will begin the year with a deep dive into the smallest building blocks of life, macromolecules, and then dive into the incredible factory like cells that make up all living things. We will spend much of the first semester working to understand how the cell functions and how its structure affects its function in a living organism. We will then move into the complicated world of genetics and inheritance. This fascinating discipline will unlock for you the mystery of why we look and behave the way we do and why and how we are different from other living things. How are you similar to and different from a banana, a dandelion, or an elephant? How does the structure of our cells and body systems affect the way in which we function differently and similarly to all three? We will also discuss ethical dilemmas that arise each day in the field of genetics. For example, is it ethical to select embryos based upon their genetic sequence so that you can ensure that your child has blue eyes? Next, we will dive into the world of body systems. We will learn about how incredible our bodies are and how each organ and organ system plays a specific and beautiful role in keeping you alive each day. Then, we will zoom out and focus on how living things interact with other living things as well as nonliving things in the environment during our unit on ecology. Finally, we will study the complicated processes that drive the evolution of all species on earth.

This course will be incredibly challenging and will force you to think in innovative ways about everyday problems. Throughout the course, we will use various forms of text, such as our textbook, videos, documentaries, news articles, scientific journal articles, and popular literature to discuss and debate some of the most thought provoking and controversial issues of the modern world. Throughout the year, you will read, write, perform, investigate, research, debate, defend, and create to develop your content knowledge and conceptual understanding of the incredible world of living things!

“Everything around us is filled with mystery and magic. I find this no cause for despair, no reason to turn for solace to esoteric formulae... on the contrary, our inability to find easy answers fills me with a fierce pride in our ambivalent biology... with a constant sense of wonder and delight that we should be part of anything so profound.” — Lyall Watson

I HAVE NO SPECIAL TALENTS. I AM ONLY PASSIONATELY CURIOUS. —ALBERT EINSTEIN
MATERIALS

It is expected that you have the following materials in class each day.
1. Pen or pencil
2. Notebook or lined filler paper, specifically for Biology
3. Folder for notes and handouts
4. Binder for notes and handouts (provided by ALA)
5. Your planner

REQUIRED TEXTS
- Scientific journal articles as provided by Ms. Dinet

COURSE GOALS

1. 80% individual and class mastery on Exit tickets.
2. 80% individual and class mastery on all Unit Exams and Quizzes.
3. 100% of us will reach our individual goals for the year.

MEANS OF EVALUATION

The list below generally describes the assignments that each student will be expected to complete during the course. Guidelines for each assignment will be distributed individually.

GRADE BREAKDOWN

Assessments/Formal Lab Reports (50%)
Assessments may include, but are not limited to, quizzes, exams, projects, essays, exit tickets, discussions, and formal lab reports. We will have quizzes occasionally throughout the quarters. You will be notified at least three school days before the date of a quiz and seven school days before the date of a unit exam. You might have occasional pop quizzes as well, and these will be unannounced. We will have a Unit Exam at the end of each Unit. These tests will cover all of the material we have learned in the Unit. Our goal is achieve an 80% or higher on every one of these exams individually and as a class. We will track our results individually AND as a class as well. We will work hard together to ensure that we are successful!

Notebooks/Classwork (30%)
Notebook and classwork grades might include, but are not limited to, notebook checks and notebook quizzes, class inquiry activities, group work, discussions, and in class writing pieces. See below for more details about ALA binders.

Homework (20%)
Homework might consist of but is not limited to, reading notes, handouts, video notes, project preparation, and study guides. See below for more specific homework policies.

Marking Period Total (100%)

GRADING SCALE

- An “A” grade represents outstanding work that is good enough to be shown to other students as an example.
- A “B” grade indicates better than average work that demonstrates excellent effort and understanding.
- A “C” grade is assigned to work that demonstrates competence but does not display any attempt to shine.
- A “D” grade indicates work that is lacking in some important way.
- An “F” is a failing grade. It will be given if an assignment or exam is not submitted or is extremely poorly executed, or in the case of plagiarism or other failure to adhere to norms of academic honesty.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Numerical Equivalent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>97 - 100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94 - 96%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>67 - 69%</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>65 - 66%</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>0 - 64%</td>
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**BINDERS**

All ALA students will have a binder for each class. This binder is to hold all class materials, notes, Do Nows, assessments, projects, lab write ups and homework. Other materials might also be added. These Binders are crucial to your success as an ALA student and beyond. Therefore, Binders will be graded at least once a month. Some binder checks will be announced ahead of time and others will not. Binders will stay in the classroom unless otherwise specified. Binder grades will be assessed either through binder checks or through binder quizzes.

**HOMEWORK AND ASSIGNMENT POLICIES: LATE WORK**

You should expect homework every night. You are expected to write down homework at the end of each class period in your homework planners. Homework is due the next class. This means you typically have two nights to complete homework. For example, if I assign homework on Monday, it is due at the start of the period on Wednesday. No excuses. *If we are working on a project, you may have a longer time to complete homework, but I will specify this ahead of time.* You will turn in homework at the beginning of each period, unless otherwise specified. Students will turn in work that is neat and complete. Do not turn in paper with the edges ripped out from a notebook. Students may hand in late homework late but will lose a percentage of points (25%) each day late. After five school days, I will no longer accept late work. Some assignments will be used in class or will be reviewed at the start of class. These assignments will not be accepted late. Ms. Dinet will specify if this is the case. Students may use a No Homework Pass if they won it as a prize from Ms. Dinet, but this will not be used on major assignments. Always ask Ms. Dinet ahead of time if you intend on using the pass for the assignment.

If a student is absent, it is YOUR responsibility to get assignments from your teachers. Students who are absent on a due date need to turn in their work the following day that the class meets at the start of class. If students are absent when major assignments are due, they must turn in their work the next calendar day. If you miss my class but are in school that day, it is expected that you bring me the homework before the end of the day.
CLASS CULTURE EXPECTATIONS AND NORMS
You are bright and motivated students who know how to behave in class. My expectations are less about behavior and more about your mindset in my class. In order to be successful, we must always remember that in Advanced Honors Biology...

✓ We take ourselves and our education seriously.
✓ We are independent, critical thinkers.
✓ We do not give up when something is hard. We know that we might fail, but will become stronger and learn from the failure. This is called having a growth mindset—believing that you can grow and learn through hard work and perseverance. As we will learn this year, your brain ACTUALLY CHANGES when you learn!
✓ We ask for help when we need it. You are only hurting yourself if you do not advocate for help when you are struggling. If you are confused, chances are that other students are also confused.
✓ We respect ourselves and everyone around us. That includes other students, ALA staff, LHS staff, custodians, cafeteria workers, secretaries and members of the community. Always treat others with kindness and respect. Kindness is one of the most important qualities to have in this world.
✓ We realize that our future is in our hands. YOU are the future of ALA, of LHS, of the city of Lawrence and of the state of Massachusetts. Know the power you have to impact your future and the future of others.
✓ We are always striving to be the very best. You will not be perfect, but there is no excuse for not putting in maximum effort. WE WORK HARD. NO EXCUSES.
✓ We don’t play. We are going to have fun in this class. However, we do not play and goof off in class.
✓ We are proud to be who we are. We are Abbott Lawrence Academy. We are Lawrence High School. We are the community and city of Lawrence. Be proud of who you are and the community you have grown up in.
✓ We stand up for what we believe in.
✓ We must always have confidence in ourselves. We must always stay humble.

BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS
My behavioral expectations are similar to what you have always known as a student. They are the following.

1. Be prepared. Come to class each day with your materials, homework, and a positive attitude.
2. Be respectful. Use school friendly language, help other students, raise your hand, and follow all rules.
3. Keep your hands, feet and objects to yourself. Always be mindful of other students’ and teacher space.
4. Be attentive. Pay attention to all instructions and only work on Biology work in Biology class. Keep your phone off and out of sight.
5. Be responsible. Take care of your personal needs (food, drinks, bathroom) before class. Plan ahead and let Ms. Dinet know if you will be missing class for any reason.
6. Be your own advocate. Make up missed assignments and ask for help when you need it.
7. Be efficient. Enter the classroom ready to work. Avoid wasting time inside and outside of class.
8. Keep our house clean. Clean up trash and push in chairs when you leave Room H-103.

CONSEQUENCES
While I do not anticipate any behavioral issues this year, if problems do arise, the following consequences will be used at Ms. Dinet’s discretion:
1. Verbal Warning
2. Written Warning
3. Phone call home
4. Referral to Ms. Ciprich or Mr. Cruz
5. Parent Meeting
6. Loss of points on an assignment
7. Detention
8. Loss of privileges

**REWARDS**
Working hard and making gains is incredibly important to Ms. Dinet. If Ms. Dinet catches you working hard, helping another student or staff member, persevering after a failure or any other good deed, she has the right to:

1. Write you a positive note to take home
2. Give you a certificate
3. Give you a snack from her secret snack stash
4. Call your parent or guardian to share the good news
5. Give you stickers, school supplies or candy
6. Shout you out to the class
7. Provide you with a NO HOMEWORK pass
8. Tell Ms. Ciprich and Mr. Cruz about your good work

**TEAM SYSTEM**
Just as all good scientists do, we will work together to succeed this year. You will help each other. You will also push each other to work harder. We want our WHOLE team to be successful. Therefore, we will work in teams for much of the year. A rewards system based upon group work will be established at the start of the year as a class. We will go over group work and class points together more in depth at a later date and will use student input in the creation of the norms. Classes and students will have opportunities to earn “tickets” that can be cashed in for a variety of prizes. Students will not earn tickets each day, but can expect to earn them in a variety of ways throughout the semester. This will be discussed at a later date after we create norms together as a group.

**Class Procedures:**
In order to be EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL this year, we cannot waste ANY time. In order to save time and make sure we are learning AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, we will follow the following protocols:

1. **Entering the Classroom**
   - Students must enter quietly and go directly to their desk.
   - Students will immediately take out their homework from the night before.
   - Students will gather materials necessary to start class.
   - Students will begin their Do Now silently.

2. **Writing Utensils**
   - Students must always be prepared with a writing utensil every day.
   - A student may borrow a pen or pencil from Ms. Dinet, but you must give Ms. Dinet something in return. It must be returned immediately after class. If it is not returned, the student will get a check for the next day.
   - If your pencil breaks during class, hold it up in the air silently and wait for Ms. Dinet to sharpen the pencil for you.

3. **Bathroom**
   - We will use the bathroom during free time or during lunch.
   - We will NOT use the bathroom during class, unless it is an emergency!
   - **We will not use the bathroom during the first ten minutes of class or the last ten minutes of class: no exceptions!**
   - You will sign out and additionally, you will take a pass with you.
   - If you have a medical reason for using the bathroom frequently, please see me to discuss.

4. **Personal Needs**
   - If students need to throw something away in the trashcan, he or she should wait until the end of the period and dispose of their materials when leaving class.
   - If a student has a medical issue, he or she must bring a note signed by the parent.
   - Students who need to address personal needs, such as washing hands or getting a tissue, can do so as needed, but should wait until direct teacher instruction is completed.

5. **Classroom Interruptions**
   - Students will put everything they are working on down on their desks.
   - They will pick their heads up and listen silently.
   - After the announcement they will wait for instruction from me before they continue working.
   - Students must always follow intercom announcements and instructions directly.
   - If a classroom visitor enters the room, students must remain quiet and should continue to work on their assignments until instructed otherwise by the teacher.
6. **Emergency Drills**

✓ Students must follow school policies and procedures for emergency situations as outlined by the teachers and administrators.
✓ When following emergency instructions, students should remain quiet and attentive.
✓ Students should stay with the class during emergency drills and must return directly to the classroom and start working after emergency drills.

7. **Exiting the Classroom**

✓ About one minute before the bell rings, I will begin to line you up table by table.
✓ You will line up along the side of the classroom and wait SILENTLY until I dismiss you to walk to the next class.
✓ When you are lined up, you will be looking forward and completely silent.
✓ You will exit silently and respectfully.

8. **Full Class Teacher Led Instruction**

✓ Students must maintain eye contact with the teacher as he or she moves throughout the classroom, unless students are taking notes.
✓ Students must remain in their seats throughout the lesson unless given permission to move around or outside of the classroom, such as during station or group work.
✓ Students must remain silent during the lesson and should only speak when called upon by raising their hand, when called upon by the teacher, or when expected to be discussing a topic with their neighbor or group.
✓ Students must actively participate in the lesson by raising their hands and asking and answering questions during class.
✓ Students are expected to take notes individually in their own notebooks, but I will point out on slides and write on the board the main ideas and most important information that students should make sure they write down in their notes.
✓ Students must be prepared with their notes, textbooks, a writing utensil and any other supplies they need for the day.

9. **Independent Practice**

✓ Students will be silent for the duration of IP, unless they raise their hands and the teacher acknowledges the question and then student may ask.
✓ Students must work independently and must not speak to other students.
✓ Students must be on task and only working on their Independent Practice. All cell phones, iPods and other electronic devices must be out of sight, unless it is part of the lesson.

10. **Working in Small Groups or Partners**

✓ Students working in pairs must work on the designated task or assignment and not any other work.
✓ Students working in pairs should use indoor voices to prevent disruption to other working pairs in the classroom.
✓ Students working in pairs should sit with their partners in a designated location in the classroom and should remain in that location until the activity is completed.
✓ Students should have all electronics put away for the entirety of the class.

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**OTHER POLICIES:**

**ABSENCES/TARDIES**

Attendance is mandatory in Biology class. LHS policy states that students accruing more than ten *unexcused* absences in one class will receive a failing grade. This does not include *excused* absences which are religious observances, approved campus activities or field trips, or a serious illness, medical / family emergency. Excused absences require official written documentation (such as a signed note from a parent, physician, or teacher).

Students are expected to arrive to each class on time. Students will be marked tardy if they are not in their seats by the time the bell rings. Students who arrive more than thirty minutes late to a class will be marked absent. Chronic lateness will negatively impact student grades. Three tardies equal one unexcused absence. Again, you are expected to be in your seat and ready to work when the bell rings. Simply being in the classroom does not suffice. We have limited time together and so much to learn so be ready to work when the bell rings!

All missed assignments can be found in the “Absent work” folders on the filing cabinet near the windows at the front of the room. Ask Ms. Dinet at an appropriate time for make-up work from excused absences. If you miss an exam or a quiz, it must be taken the class period you return unless discussed with Ms. Dinet.

**UNIFORM POLICY**

Students are to be in uniform at all times. The uniform consists of an ALA black or maroon polo, khakis, and closed-toed shoes. Other acceptable garments include crew neck sweaters, fleeces, cardigans, or ALA track jackets in black, maroon, navy, or white. These garments must be solid colored and should not have any designs or stripes.
Polo shirts must always be worn underneath these garments. Hooded sweatshirts and denim are not allowed in any way. Student cannot wear these garments through their arms. Students who have any concerns regarding uniforms should reach out to any ALA teachers or administrators who will help resolve any issues discretely.

**FOOD/DRINKS**
Students are not permitted to eat or drink anything other than water unless it is provided by me and during Advisory/Study Hall. Students are expected to be courteous and clean up after themselves. If you are struggling to focus because you are hungry, please raise your hand and we can have a discussion privately. I want you to be successful in my class! If you are hungry, you won’t be able to focus. Therefore, while we are in a science lab and food is prohibited, I also understand that sometimes we forget to eat breakfast. Talk to me and we can figure it out together if something arises during the year.

**ACCEPTABLE USE OF TECHNOLOGY**
Students should conduct themselves professionally at all times. Cell phones, I-pods, and other electronics are NOT allowed in Ms. Dinet’s classroom, unless otherwise specified. Your phone should be off and out of sight. This does not mean face down on your desk or in your pocket. Any inappropriate use of laptops or phones (such as texting, internet browsing, Facebook/ Twitter, etc) will negatively impact your grades. I reserve the right to confiscate laptops/phones until the end of the period. If further issues arise, administration will confiscate phones for the rest of the day and notify parents.

**GUIDANCE POLICY**
Students are required to set up appointments to meet during the school day with Ms. Tetrault, the guidance counselor. She also holds drop-in times before and after school and during Advisory. In an emergency, I can refer you immediately to the guidance office.

**HALL PASSES**
Students should obtain a Hall Pass from a teacher to use the restroom or travel within ALA. Students are also required to sign-in/out when leaving and re-entering a classroom. A separate written pass is required to go to the nurse. Students cannot leave any given class during the first or final five minutes of a 45 or 60-minute class or the first and final ten minutes of a 90-minute class. This is known as the 5/5 rule for 45/60-minute classes and the 10/10 rule for 90-minute classes.

**ACCOMMODATIONS OR SPECIAL REQUESTS**
All students who have specific needs please let me know as soon as possible. Even if you do not have an IEP, 504 plan, or any other formal support, you may need extra support in some way. For example, if you have a hard time sitting still for the whole class, talk to me so we can figure out a plan for your success. EQUAL DOES NOT ALWAYS MEAN FAIR. What helps you to learn might help other students too. Please let me know how I can best help you to succeed this year! Asking for help is CRUCIAL! I want everyone to be successful and we need to work together to create plans for your success.

**OFFICE HOURS**
I am available to help students in my classroom each day until 3:15 pm. In addition, I will hold office hours from 2:45 - 4:00 pm on Wednesdays so that students can discuss their work in the course and ask questions. Students are encouraged to attend office hours to seek extra support. If a student cannot make my scheduled office hours, you should contact me directly to set up a meeting. I am happy to work with you to find a time that works for you if Wednesday afternoons do not work with your schedule. Please let me know ahead of time if you intend on staying after so the appropriate accommodations can be made.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**
Students are expected to maintain the highest level of academic integrity. When using ideas, words, and short passages from other people's writing, students are required to acknowledge the source. Failure to acknowledge the contribution of others is considered plagiarism. Submitting plagiarized work, failing to properly cite or fabricating sources, and any other academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will automatically result in a failing grade for the given assignment and further disciplinary action. Students will not be allowed to make up any plagiarized work for credit. Plagiarism includes copying directly from the internet, a book or article, or another student’s work (with or without their permission). In order to avoid these issues, students are encouraged to speak with any teacher or administrator if they have any questions (no matter how small) about their work or citing sources.
CONCLUDING THOUGHTS AND ADVICE

“Nothing has such power to broaden the mind as the ability to investigate systematically and truly, all that comes under thy observation in life.”
-Marcus Aurelius

Welcome to eleventh grade!!! It is a new year and a fresh start for everyone! We are going to work harder than we ever thought we could, but we will achieve success! We are going to work as biologists to discover and explore the world around us and to dive deeply into the exciting and complicated world of biology. We are going to set the bar high for one another, but we will have fun reaching our goals together. While we will make sure that everyone is working hard, expect to make mistakes because that is how we learn and grow. It is what you do after you fail that truly matters. I am SO excited to work with you this year and know that we are going to accomplish incredible things together!

I have read over the syllabus and understand the expectations for the year regarding our goals and procedures for Advanced Honors Biology 11.

Student Printed Name:_______________________________________________________________

Student Signature: __________________________________________________________________

Date:______________________________________________

Parent/Guardian Printed Name:_________________________________________________________

Parent/Guardian Signature: __________________________________________________________

Date:_______________________________________________

Comments/Questions/Concerns? List them in the space below and Ms. Dinet will get back to you!!!