



Merrimack College Biology Seminar
Abbott Lawrence Academy
2018 - 2019

Ms. Kaitlin Dinet

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Office Hours:

Classroom: H-103

Day/Time: Tuesdays, 2:45-4:00pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Note: This course description is taken directly from Professor Piatelli's course syllabus.

This course explores some of the basic principles and ideas concerning the science of biology. Here we will investigate biological concepts from a molecular and cellular viewpoint and their consequences for human health. Thus, in this course we will ask questions such as “what happens when cell function breaks down to cause disease? How do the foods we eat affect the health and function of our cells and organs? What are the roles of DNA and genes in cellular function and human health?”

This course has a laboratory component. The laboratory investigations will not necessarily be synchronized with lecture material but are intended to provide you with hands-on experience with some basic methods and techniques used by biologists and to highlight specific biological principles.

Importantly, the lecture component of this course reflects a *modified flipped classroom* and is designed to be an **active learning environment**. In a flipped classroom students are assigned readings and video lectures intended to provide background concepts and information necessary to engage in class discussions and case studies. You will learn biology by *actively participating in the learning experience*, and solving biological problems.

Indeed many of the biological concepts in this course will be addressed using case studies that pose either a medical, health, or biological question or issue. Consequently, in order to engage in the case studies and discussions you **MUST** be prepared before class by reading text material and by video lectures. In this way you will be expected to **apply** your understanding of biology in a clinical and health context. As such, this course will combine lectures, small group discussions, and case studies, to promote an **active learning process**.

“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

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
6. Your 1-1 device provided by ALA/Merrimack
 - a. *Note that a signed release and use form will be required in order for you to use the device while enrolled in Merrimack.*

REQUIRED TEXTS

Biology for a Changing World with Core Physiology 2nd Edition- Shuster et. al.

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. The majority of your grade will be determined by Professor Piatelli's syllabus. See his syllabus for reference.

GRADE BREAKDOWN

Merrimack Grade (30%)

Refer to Professor Piatelli's syllabus for the course expectations.

Classwork (30%)

Notebook and classwork grades might include, but are not limited to, notebook checks, Do Nows or Exit Slips, class inquiry activities, group work, discussions, and in class writing pieces.

Homework (20%)

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

Assessments (20%)

Assessments may include, but are not limited to, quizzes, projects, essays, entrance or exit tickets, discussions, and formal lab reports. We will have quizzes occasionally. You might have occasional pop quizzes as well, and these will be unannounced. Reading quizzes and binder quizzes will also be included in this portion of your grade.

Marking Period Total (100%)

*****Please Note: If at the end of Term 1, you have a grade below a C, ALA administrators have the right to automatically withdraw you from the course and please you in Advanced Honors Biology. This is due to the fact that in college, grades below a C do not earn college credit.*****

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 (20%) 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.

If you are absent, it is **YOUR** responsibility to get assignments from your teacher. 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 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, humility, and respect. Kindness is one of the most important qualities to have in this world.
- ✓ 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 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.**



**I HAVE NO SPECIAL
TALENTS. I AM ONLY
PASSIONATELY
CURIOUS.
-ALBERT EINSTEIN**

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. Be attentive. Pay attention to all instructions and only work on Biology work in Biology class.
4. 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.
5. Be your own advocate. Make up missed assignments and ask for help when you need it.
6. Be efficient. Enter the classroom ready to work. Avoid wasting time inside and outside of class.
7. 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. Parent Meeting
5. Detention

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. We will go over group work and will use student input in the creation of the norms together.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is mandatory. Students accruing more than ***nine unexcused absences in a yearlong class or five unexcused absences in a semester long 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 fifteen minutes late to a class will be marked absent. Chronic lateness will negatively impact student grades. Three tardies is equivalent to one unexcused absence.

- **Chronic Absences:** Students who are on track to have 9 absences in a yearlong course or 5 absences in a semester long course will receive a letter grade of “WF” in the gradebook. WF stands for “Warning Failure” and will remain in the gradebook until the student completes the course under the allotted number of absences or makes up absences. The process for making up absences must be approved by the Principal and will be agreed upon by the school, the student, and a parent/guardian.
- **Tardiness:** Students who are consistently late to classes will receive disciplinary action. Consequences are as follows:
 - One** after-school detention after a student’s 3rd unexcused tardy in a class.
 - Two** after-school detentions after a student’s 6th unexcused tardy in a class (parent phone call).
 - Three** after-school detentions after a student’s 9th unexcused tardy in a class (parent meeting).
 - A Week** of after school detention after a student’s 12th unexcused tardy in a class.
 - Students will be referred to **in-school suspension** after their 15th tardy. Disciplinary action after the 18th tardy will be at the discretion of the principal and may include an attendance hearing at Central Office and/or disqualification from taking Early College courses.

Make-up Work

If a student is absent, it is their responsibility to get assignments from their 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.

All missed assignments can be found in the “Absent work” bin in Ms. Dinet’s 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.

Late Work

Written assignments are due at the beginning of each period. Late work will incur penalties. Teachers determine the point deductions for each assignment.

Snow Days

Students are encouraged to check the Lawrence Public Schools webpage, the Superintendent’s Twitter account, and their local news station for information about Snow Days. If a Snow Day is observed on a “A-Day” schedule, upon returning to school students will follow a “B-day” schedule. In the event that a due date for a major assignment falls on a snow day, students must still turn in the assignment only if it required electronic submission.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

An important skills we expect ALA students to continually development throughout their high school career is *Self-Advocacy*, which is identifying what you need to be successful and seeking out the resources or people to help you. ALA provides numerous opportunities for students to advocate for themselves.

Office Hours

Teachers are available to help students in their classrooms each day until 3:15 pm. In addition, teachers hold office hours from 2:45 - 4:00 pm once a week 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 a teacher’s scheduled office hours, they should contact them directly to set up a meeting. Biology office hours are Tuesday from 2:45-4:00.

Study Hall

All ALA students have at least an hour and thirty minutes of Study Hall per week on Thursdays where they can work on assignments and meet with teachers. Students can sign-up for an extra Study Hall period on Wednesdays during our Advisory block.

GUIDANCE POLICY

Students are required to set up appointments to meet during the school day with the guidance counselor. She also holds drop-in times before and after school and during Advisory. In an emergency, a teacher can refer students 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 class during the first or final ten minutes of a 90-minute class. This is known as the 10/10 rule. Teachers will use their discretion on a case by case basis.

UNIFORM

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 may wear LHS or ALA gear so long as they have a visible ALA polo underneath. Students who have any concerns regarding uniforms should reach out to any ALA teachers or administrators who will help resolve any issues discretely.

Students who do not adhere to our uniform guidelines will be subject to the following disciplinary action:

- **-One** after-school detention after a student's **3rd** offense.
- **-Two** after-school detentions after a student's **6th** offense (parent phone call).
- **-Three** after-school detentions after a student's **9th** offense (parent meeting).
- **-A Week** of after school detention after a student's **12th** offense.
- **-Students will be referred to in-school suspension** after their **15th** offense. Disciplinary action after the **18th** offense will be at the discretion of the principal and may include a hearing at Central Office and/or disqualification from extracurricular activities, school events, and taking Early College courses.
- Teachers have the authority to confiscate items of clothing that are not in adherence with the dress code. Items will be returned to students at the end of the day.

**We acknowledge that situations may arise throughout the year where a student may not have access to a uniform. We ask that students have a parent inform us when such situations arise. A parent can notify the school by phone, email, or note before 8:00am on that day.*

ACCEPTABLE USE OF TECHNOLOGY

The use of technology in classrooms and throughout ALA should be viewed as a privileged resource and not a right. Each teacher will determine when technology may be used in the classroom. Any inappropriate use of laptops or phones (such as texting, internet browsing, Facebook/ Twitter, etc) will negatively impact student grades and result in further disciplinary action. Teachers reserve the right to confiscate laptops/phones until the end of the period. If further issues arise, administration will confiscate devices for the rest of the day and notify parents.

School Computers

ALA has several computer carts equipped with Chromebooks and full-service Laptops. Many of the carts are only for classroom use and some are reserved for individual student sign-out.

- *Classroom Carts* – computers in these carts are not to be taken out for student's individual use. The only exception to this rule is during a Study Hall period.
- *Individual Student Sign-Out* – computers will be made available for sign-out from 7:15-8:00am and from 2:45-4:00pm. Student must fill out the sign-out book and return the computers before the morning or afternoon time period is over.
- *Overnight Reservations* – students who require a computer to take home to complete assignments can do so. Please be aware that computers are limited and we will try to fulfill every request as best we can. All request for computers should be made with a guidance counselor.

Google Account

ALA students are given a Google account that is tied to their LPS ID Lunch number. We strongly encourage students to use this account given that many assignments are done through many of the Google Suites applications. Here is how to log-in to Google:

- Username – 12345@students.lawrence.k12.ma.us
- Password – 00012345
- Replace “12345” with students’ unique LPS ID number.

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.

Students who are found to be academically dishonest will be subject to the following disciplinary action:

- 1st offense – Week of after-school detention.
- 2nd offense – In-school suspension.
- 3rd offense – Out of school suspension.
- 4th offense – Disciplinary Hearing at District Office (action to be recommended by hearing officer). At this point students may be disqualified from participating in Early College courses in their Junior or Senior year and/or placed on Academic Probation.

***All offenses come with a grade of a “0” for the assignment in which the student was academically dishonest.**

DETENTION PROTOCOL

An ALA staff member will inform students if they have received an after-school detention. Detentions are usually served for infractions related to tardiness, uniform, and incidents related to behavior. Detentions will occur from 2:50-3:20pm daily and the location will rotate on a weekly basis. Students must be at the designated location by 2:50pm or they will not be allowed to serve their detention. As a consequence, students will have to make up the detention they missed in addition to another day for arriving late.

FOOD/DRINKS IN H103

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.

BATHROOM AND PERSONAL NEEDS

Students are allowed to use the bathroom at any time that they need to, as long as it is not the first or last ten minutes of class. (However, if there is an emergency, please let me know!) Please use the bathroom during free time or during lunch. You **MUST** sign out with your name, date, destination, time out and time back in. This is for your safety!!! You must also take a pass with you. If you have a medical reason for using the bathroom frequently, please see me to discuss. Feel free to wash your hands, blow your nose, throw away trash, as needed, but please be mindful of direct instruction time.

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.

ACCOMODATIONS 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. 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.

“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 Merrimack College Biology Seminar.

Student Printed Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Printed Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

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

