**HONORS GENETICS SYLLABUS**

**Barksdale 2017-18**

**Contact Information:**

Email: barksdr@gcsnc.com Phone: 336-316-5800 Tutorial Hours: Tuesdays, 4-5 PM

Website: www.barksdalescience.weebly.com

**Course Description:** Honors Genetics is a unique course designed by a former Western teacher. This course will take a closer look at the principles and bioethics of genetics, a rapidly growing field in Greensboro and across the world.

**Required Materials:** Every student will need the following supplies:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Spiral/composition notebook
 | * Colored pen (red, blue) for grading
 |
| * Pen/pencil
 | * *Optional: tape or glue stick, and scissors*
 |

Some class supplies are available for students to borrow provided students return them at the end of class. If supplies go missing I will not buy more – so don’t take what is not yours!

**Expectations:**

* Be present: students are in class, on time and engaged in their learning.
* Be respectful: students help to create a positive learning environment for everyone.
* Be safe: students practice standard lab procedures when conducting experiments.

**GCS Grade Scale:**

A: 90-100 B: 80-89 C: 70-79 D:60-69 F: 59 or below

**Grade Weights:**

Tests = 40% Labs, Projects = 30% Quizzes = 20% Homework = 10%

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Students** | **Initial Score** | **Final Score** |
| **Roland** | 80% | 75% |
| **Rafael** | 80% | 85% |
| **Rashida** | 80% | 80% |
| **TOTAL** | 240 | 240 |

**Group Grading Policy:** Students will be working closely with their peers frequently throughout the year, and all group assignments will be graded as follows. The assignment grade will initially be given to each member of the group equally and a total number of points provided on the grade sheet. When the group receives their score they will have time in class to come to a consensus on how to divide the total points based on merit. The group records their new individual scores – the sum of which should still equal the initial total points – and turns the grade sheet back in to the teacher. An example is shown to the right. Any groups that cannot reach a consensus in time or fail to accurately divide their points will be given the points initially awarded by the teacher.

**GCS Attendance Policy:** It is important to student success to be in class on time. Students can have three absences before they must begin making up missed time during tutorial hours. After the fourth absence, and each subsequent absent, a student must makeup **30 minutes** with each teacher for every day absent.

**Make-up Policy:** Students are responsible for all work missed during an absence. Students have **three school days** from their return to school to submit make-up work for full credit. After three days the late work policy takes effect. Assignments you missed can be found in the crates labeled “What Did I Miss?” *as well as online on the class website.*

**GCS Late Work Policy:** Students have **three school days** from the assignment due date in which to turn in late work. After three days **no missing work will be accepted.** For each day the assignment is late the maximum credit available for that assignment will be reduced by 15% (1 day late = 85% max credit, 2 days late = 70%, 3 days = 55%).

**Testing:** All tests will be announced at least one week in advance. As a science department, major tests are administered on **Tuesdays**. Students who know of absences on test days in advance must make arrangements to take that test at an alternative time outside of school hours.

**Assessment Retake Policy:** Students who score below a 70% on a quiz will receive a recovery assignment to review the quiz concepts. They will have **one week** to complete the assignment at 100% accuracy and schedule a time outside of school hours to take an alternative version of the quiz. Students can earn a maximum score of 70% on their quiz and they will only have one retake opportunity per quiz. Students will be able to **retake one test** of their choice each semester provided they scored less than a 70%. These retakes must be completed within **one week** of the original test date; the student must attend my tutorial hour or schedule an alternative appointment within that week before being allowed to retake the test.

**Debates:** As part of our discussion of various bioethical issues in genetics, students will participate in two formal debates during the year (1 each semester). Debates will take place in teams and will be announced. Students not assigned to present on a debate topic will write a report. Debates are categorized as a project in the gradebook (see Grade Weights).

**GCS Electronic Devices Policy:** There is a no-personal-devices policy in my class. Devices that are visible or in use during class time without teacher permission will be confiscated for the duration of the period and the student’s parent/guardian notified. You may voluntarily surrender your devices to the teacher at the beginning of the period for safe keeping.

**Food/Drink:** Clear water bottles are allowed in the classroom area. No drinks allowed at the lab stations or during labs. No food allowed in class at any time.

**Science Safety Contract:** The safety practices listed below are to be followed at all times during experiments and projects. Students who present a danger to themselves or others will not be permitted to participate in labs and experiments.

* All accidents, no matter how small, should be reported to the teacher immediately.
* Injuries (scrapes, insect stings, etc.) should be reported to the teacher immediately.
* If you develop hives or feel intense itchiness, report it to your teacher immediately.
* If you feel ill, report it to your teacher immediately.
* The only activities that you are allowed to do are the ones that the teacher has given directions for.
* Only materials and equipment authorized by the teacher may be used.
* All instructions given by the teacher must be closely followed.
* Wear safety glasses or goggles when instructed. Never remove safety glasses or goggles during an experiment.
* No food or beverage is allowed in the science laboratory.
* Never taste, smell, or touch chemicals unless specifically told to do so.
* Wash your hands thoroughly (for 15 seconds) with soap at the end of each lab period if any hazardous material was handled.
* You should know the proper fire drill procedure and know where to get help fast.
* Long sleeves should be rolled up above the wrist. Ties, coats, and sweaters should be removed. Long hair should be tied back during laboratory activity.
* Student apparel should be appropriate for laboratory work. Long hanging necklaces, bulky jewelry, and excessive and bulky clothing should not be worn in the laboratory.
* Closed-toed shoes are a must.
* Work areas should be kept clean and tidy.
* Always clean and wipe dry all desks, tables, or laboratory work areas at the end of each laboratory activity as part of good organizational practices.
* Broken glass should be removed from work areas and the floor as soon as possible. Never handle broken glass with your bare hands.
* Do not discard any solids in the laboratory sinks.
* Only laboratory notebooks are permitted in the working area. Other books, purses, book bags, and such items should be placed in your desk or storage area.
* Do not touch any laboratory equipment until told to do so.
* Horseplay, running, pushing, shoving, and practical jokes will not be tolerated.
* You are expected to conduct yourself in a responsible manner at all times in a laboratory situation.
* Never remove anything from the lab, unless instructed to do so (this includes glassware, chemicals, and models).
* Notify the teacher if you feel unsafe/scared while conducting an experiment so other arrangements can be made.

**Student agreement**

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ [student’s name], have read and understand each of the safety rules. I agree to follow them to ensure my safety and the safety of others. I also agree to follow the general rules of appropriate behavior for our classroom at all times. I will try to avoid accidents and to provide a safe learning environment for everyone. I understand that if I do not follow all the rules and safety precautions, I will not be allowed to participate in science activities.

**Student signature**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Date**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Period:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Dear Parent or Guardian:**

Please read the list of safety rules. No student will be permitted to perform science activities unless this contract is signed by both the student and parent/guardian and is returned to the teacher.

Your signature on this contract indicates that you have read this Science Safety Contract, have reviewed it with your student, and are aware of the measures taken to ensure the safety of your student in science.

**Parent/guardian name (please print)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/guardian signature**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Date**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Important questions**

• Does your child wear contact lenses? **Y or N**

• Is your child color-blind? **Y or N**

• Does your child have any allergies? **Y or N**

If so, please list:

In the unlikely event of an emergency, the instructor should contact:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) @ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name relation to student phone #

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) @ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name relation to student phone #