

Science Department
Mr. Panak – Room D105
Core Science

Course Description: All students need to achieve a certain level of scientific literacy in order to better understand the world, be able to make informed decisions and solve everyday problems. Core Science meets this challenge by presenting the general principles of physical, chemical, earth and life sciences through a variety of teaching methods, while placing an emphasis on the knowledge and skills necessary to prepare students to successfully take the Science portion of the Ohio Graduation Test.

Course Outline: The current schedule will be posted on the assignment board in the room.

Class Format: lecture, small group discussion, problem solving, group activities, lab activities, projects, research, quizzes, journal entries. An emphasis is placed on participation and following proper scientific procedures. See the additional handout for class procedures.

Grading Policy: The grading scale used in this course is as follows:

- A – Excellent (92%-100%)
- B – Above Average (83%-91%)
- C – Average (74%-82%)
- D – Below Average (66%-73%)
- F – Unsatisfactory (0%-65%)

Grading Criteria: The students in this course will be evaluated on written tests and quizzes, group activities, organization of materials, verbal responses and conduct/class participation.

Students who score an F on any assignment will be permitted to repeat the assignment until a passing grade is achieved; however, the highest score attainable on a repeat is a (C). Only assignments turned in on time are eligible for improvement. Tests and quiz retakes will be in essay format.

Assignments must be turned in by the last day scheduled for the given unit to be redone. Late assignments cannot be redone. The original assignment must be attached to the correct work.

Work Expectations and Course Requirements:

There are 1000-2000 points available in each 9 weeks, roughly distributed as follows:

Daily quizzes	20%
Weekly class work	40%
Labs and activities	30%
Participation	10%

Materials Needed: Students are required to have a binder for their materials. In addition, you will need paper, pens or pencils, and a calculator. A pencil is needed to complete computer scan sheets, and using a pen will result in a failing grade. Students are expected to bring these materials to class everyday. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action.

Notebook: The student will organize and maintain a journal throughout the term that contains lab reports vocabulary terms and sample short responses.

Vocabulary: Because learning the specialized vocabulary of science is essential to passing the OGT, learning the vocabulary detailed in the state OGT materials will be necessary to pass this class. There will be vocabulary quizzes worth 10 points every day. These quizzes will focus primarily on the current topic's word bank, but will also cover words which have been covered previously. **A passing grade in CORE Science requires a passing grade on the vocabulary quizzes.**

How to hand in work and get class credit: To be placed in the grade book, your work product should be placed in the proper class tray. All papers must have name, period number and date in the top right hand corner. Due dates will be posted on the assignment board.

Participation: Up to 10% of your grade is participation. Points are gained by making meaningful contributions to the class. Answering questions and helping other students are the best ways to get these points. Points are lost by disrupting the learning process.

Homework: There will be one homework assignment per week worth 20-50 points.

Handouts: You will be provided a number of handouts. If you lose a handout, you will be unable to complete that task. When an assignment is given, handouts equal to 120% of the current class roster are printed, and any excess is placed in the handout bin for the class. **It is the student's responsibility to obtain these handouts if class is missed.** Once all are gone, no additional ones will be printed.

Questions and Concerns: I am available if any student, parent, or guardian wishes to contact me for questions, concerns, or additional help on course material. I can be reached by calling the TCTC main office at 330-847-0503 and leaving a message. I will then return your call. You can also reach me via e-mail at stephen.panak@neomin.org

Class Rules:

1. Be in your seats, with all needed materials, working on the warm up assignment located on the board or projection screen, when the bell rings.
2. Raise hand for permission to talk, unless in-group work. In group work, talk only to the students in your group. Do not scream across the room.
3. Raise hand for permission to get out of seat.
4. Stay in seat until bell rings. Do not move toward the door until excused.
5. Show respect for all other people in the room before demanding it for yourself.
6. **Most important rule: TRY YOUR BEST AT ALL TIMES.**

Syllabus is subject to change