

ERHS General Science

Class Syllabus

General Information:

A. Course: **General Science A and B (P)**

B. Instructor: **Mr. Rodriguez**

email: crodriguez@righetti.us **phone:** (805) 937-2051 ext. 2111

webpage: <http://crodriguez.righettiscience.com>

I do not answer my phone during class, so I encourage email as a primary form of communication.

C. Text (s): ***Holt Earth Science: California Edition***

Course Description:

This is a year long course designed to introduce and study the following aspects of physical science:

Physics: force and motion, heat and thermodynamics, waves, electronic and magnetic phenomena.

Chemistry: Atomic and molecular structure and chemical bonds.

Earth Science: Earth's place in the universe, dynamic earth processes, energy in the Earth's systems, biogeochemical cycles, structure and composition of the atmosphere, and California geology.

Investigation and experimentation: Lab procedures, the metric system of measurement, the use of technology for data collection and communication

Required Materials:

- Students are required to provide and maintain a science **notebook** of the spiral bound type. See **Notebooks** under grading procedures below.
- Students are expected to have their science **notebook and writing utensil** in class every day.
- **STRONGLY Recommended** but not required is a scientific calculator and internet access outside of school.

Posting of Homework: Homework is posted to the internet at the Mr. Rodriguez's website listed above. Click the General Science link there. Homework is also posted weekly on the front board in class.

Grading Procedures:

General: All written work is graded for neatness, completeness, accuracy, grammar and spelling. Oral participation is counted as described under "Participation" below. All work is assigned a point value. For example, most unit tests are assigned a value of 200 points and quizzes are normally 20-30 points. Notebooks containing homework and other class work are worth approximately 50 points at each review. At the end of the grading period, all points to date are totaled and a percent score is determined for each student by dividing the number of points the student earned by the number of assigned points possible. Letter grades are then assigned based on the following scale:

- 90 - 100 % of all possible points -----> A
- 80 - 89 % of all possible points -----> B
- 70 - 79 % of all possible points -----> C
- 60 - 69 % of all possible points -----> D
- Below 60 % of all possible points -----> Failing

Tests: Chapter tests will be given over each major unit, and are always announced in advance. Tests are usually worth 100 points. Test scores are not based on a curve, but are adjusted for difficulty by basing the points possible upon the highest score earned on that particular test. A final exam will be administered at the close of each semester, covering work completed for the entire period.

Quizzes: Quizzes are occasionally given during a chapter of the text or other unit covered. Each quiz will normally be worth 15 points. Some quizzes may **not** be announced in advance and may simply cover the previous night's homework assignment.

Participation: Students will earn participation points for being on time, prepared for classwork, and exercising respect for lab and classroom facilities and equipment.

Lab Exercises: Lab exercises accompany most units and always will require a written report in the student notebook. Lab scores become part of the overall notebook score.

Homework: All classroom assignments are given a week in advance. Each week, usually on Friday, assignments will be posted for the following week. **Homework assignments will be posted on the internet at the school's science website.** Homework assignments are written directly into the class notebook, and will be graded when notebooks are turned in. Except in certain special circumstances as directed by the instructor, homework is not to be completed in class. Copying of homework is considered cheating and will result in disciplinary action and/or loss of grade. Homework is not accepted late except as noted under **Makeups** below.

Notebooks: All classroom notes, handouts, homework, lab write-ups will go directly into the student notebook.

This book is collected approximately every month. Scoring is based on completion of all assigned work, inclusion of all handouts, and neatness. Each student is **required** to have a separate, SPIRAL - type notebook for science which will contain only science materials. Loose-leaf notebooks are not acceptable.

Makeups: Homework will not be accepted late unless the student is absent on the due date for illness or other **officially excused** absence. Work is expected to be turned in promptly upon the student's return to school. **Time is available before or after school if students need to make an appointment for extra help.** One make-up test will be given for each 6-week grading period. This will be a unit test covering all material assigned during the previous 6 weeks in class. The test will normally be given during the last week of the grading period, during class time. The score earned on this test will be entered in place of all missed tests and quizzes. No other make up opportunities will be provided. Students not requiring make up tests or quizzes due to absences MAY take the test as a "retake" to supplant a less desirable score on a previous test for the grading period.

Extra Credit: Extra credit is not offered in this course.

Electronics: Tablets must remain away during class unless otherwise instructed by the teacher. Tablets are to be used for appropriate educational purposes only. Tablets being used for any other purpose along with all cell phones and music playersagers will be confiscated if they are out during class. Parents will have to come pick them up.

Discipline: Any necessary disciplinary action will be in accordance with the Ernest Righetti High School discipline policy, as described in the ***Student Handbook***. Cheating of any sort will not be tolerated and result in a score of 0 on the assignment in question.

Attendance: Students are held accountable to the school attendance policy as outlined in the Student Handbook. Students who are not in their seat with materials out when the last bell rings will be considered tardy.

Citizenship: Students at Righetti High are assigned a citizenship grade, either Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory, at each grading period. Students requiring disciplinary action can expect to receive an Unsatisfactory Citizenship grade.

Classroom Expectations:

1. Eating or drinking is not permitted (including chewing gum).
2. No teasing, shouting, disrupting or disrespectful behavior.
3. No throwing of any object in the classroom.
4. Keep your hands, feet, and any other object off other people and their property.
5. Remain in your seat or at your lab station unless given permission to leave. Mr. Rodriguez excuses the class at the end of the period, not the bell.
6. No grooming during class. No makeup or mirrors should be out at any point during class.
7. Come prepared for scheduled class activities. Everyday, students are to be in their seats when the final bell rings. At the beginning of each period, each student is to have the class textbook, writing utensil and notebook on top of the desk.
8. Laboratory materials become the financial responsibility of the student when checked out for use during the period. Be careful with your equipment.
9. Students are expected to clean lab areas following experiments, and to leave their assigned seating area clean.
10. "Horseplay" is not tolerated at all during labs. Students whose actions are deemed by the teacher to represent a safety hazard will be immediately ejected from the classroom. Stern disciplinary action will follow. Such students may not be permitted to take part in further lab activities.
11. Students are expected to pay attention during lecture and help to maintain a distraction-free learning environment. This means that you do not talk to anyone unless it is in direct relation to assigned activities, and that you help remind each other to be respectful.
12. Students are expected to participate intelligently in class discussions when called upon.
13. Students are **required** to keep a science notebook (spiral bound, not loose-leaf), take notes during class, and have the notebook ready to present for inspection at all times.

cut along this line and return the stub to Mr. Rodriguez:

✂ _____

Student name: (PRINT) _____ Period: _____

After reading the above class information, please remove and sign this page, and return it to Mr. Rodriguez.

STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

I have read the preceding rules and guidelines for Mr. Rodriguez's GENERAL SCIENCE class, and understand the contents.

student signature

date

parent signature

date