

Living Environment
Course Outline
John F. Kennedy High School



Dear Parent/Guardian and Student,

Welcome! This course, Living Environment, is a laboratory science course required by New York State, culminating with a **Regents exam in June**. Some of the major topics we will be learning about include the scientific method, cell structures and functions, biochemistry, human physiology, reproduction and development, genetics and biotechnology, evolution, ecology, and human impact on the environment.

Expectations and Procedures

1. Arrive on time with necessary materials and be seated ready to work at the bell.
2. Raise your hand and wait to be called on if you have a question or comment.
3. Be respectful of other people, their property, our classroom, and yourself.
4. Follow laboratory safety measures & procedures at ALL times, in every classroom.
5. Remain seated / on task until you are dismissed by the teacher, not the bell.

Materials

- Binder with loose-leaf paper OR notebook with at least 3* sections neatly labeled:
 - 2- Class notes
 - 3- Homework
 - 4- Lab
- Folder
- Pencils with erasers AND blue or black ink pens (bring EVERY day)
- Colored pencils
- Glue stick

Course Assessment and Grading

Students will be graded based on the following percentages:

Exams	40%
Quizzes	20%
Homework	10%
Lab Reports	20%
Effort	10%
Classwork and special projects	varies by assignment

Exams/Quizzes

Exams are created using Regents style questions in order to effectively prepare students for the New York State Regents exam in June. All exams and quizzes will be announced. At the end of each quarter students will be given a cumulative exam assessing ALL material from the beginning of the year up to that point. The first quarter cumulative exam includes all topics from first quarter. The second quarter cumulative exam (a.k.a. midterm exam) will include all topics from both 1st AND 2nd quarters. The 3rd quarter cumulative exam will include all topics from 1st, 2nd, AND 3rd quarters. The 4th quarter cumulative exam will include all topics from the entire school year.

Recommended Internet sites for practice Regents questions:

www.regentsprep.org (free)

www.barronsregents.com (subscription required)

Extra Help Hours - room 312 after school

Wednesday afternoon from 2:15 - 2:50 p.m.

Thursday afternoon from 2:15 - 2:50 p.m.

Homework

Homework will be assigned on a daily basis and is due the following day unless otherwise stated. All absentee work must be made up in a timely fashion in order to receive credit. Students are responsible for getting notes and homework assignments by attending extra help or asking a responsible fellow classmate.

Labs

New York State requires a **minimum of 1,200 minutes of lab work** for all Living Environment students. Completed labs will be kept on file by the teacher. Students will not be permitted to take the Regents exam if these labs have not been completed and turned in. There are 4 specific labs required by New York State that will be assessed on the Regents exam in June. Labs must be submitted in neatly handwritten lab report format which will be further discussed during our lab period. As per district policy, any student who does not submit a minimum of 75% of labs each quarter will not be able to pass for that quarter.

Effort & Productivity

Remaining productive and on task is an integral part of a well-functioning classroom. If you arrive on time, prepared to work, provide **NO** distractions to the teacher or your fellow students, follow instructions, work diligently on individual assignments, group work, and labs, abide by all laboratory safety procedures, and meet our class expectations, you will receive full credit for your this grade.

Special Assignments

As we move through different topics during the year, special assignments will arise. You may be required to work independently or cooperatively. Each project will be fully outlined and explained in further detail at a later date.

CONTACT


If you have any questions regarding the course, please do not hesitate to ask. Communication is very important to me. I am looking forward to working with you this year. I hope to share my passion for science with you, particularly my love of Biology.

The best way to reach me is by email: Lhughes@bellmore-merrick.k12.ny.us. I can also be reached by leaving a message at the Main Office at 992-1400 and I will call you back as soon as possible. My best wishes to you for a successful school year.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Hughes
JFK Science Department

Please acknowledge form
on my website!
www.biohughes.weebly.com

Cut along dotted line 

Signatures: I have read and understand these classroom expectations and procedures and will do my best to be a cooperative member of our class.

Student's name (neatly print)

Student signature

(Date)

Student's email (neatly print)

Parent's name (neatly print)

Parent signature

(Date)

*Parent email #1 (please PRINT neatly)

Parent email #2 (optional)