

ADVANCED BIOLOGY

Paleontology-Zoology



- **Course Description:**

This is a yearlong, in-depth course for students of high ability and interest. This is an interdisciplinary course that develops ideas in both geology and biology to trace the evolution of animals through geologic time. The theory of evolution is taught as the unifying principle in this course. Units of study include plate tectonics, the fossil record, geologic time, classification and the anatomy, physiology and ecology of the major animal groups.

- **Course Expectations:**

Prerequisite for this class is one year of biology or chemistry with a grade of B or better or teacher permission. This course requires regular class attendance and participation. This course requires students to organize lecture materials, numerous handouts and laboratory activities. Comprehensive exams are given regularly and represent 60% of the grade in the course. Students are expected to do home work on a regular basis. The amount of time spent on home work will be a function of student ability, interest and grade expectation.

- **Special Projects:**

A semester project completed outside of class time is required for an “A”. Project topics must be OK’d by the teacher. For students not working towards an “A” grade, semester projects may be used for extra credit. This is the only opportunity for extra credit in the course.

- **Beyond the general education course:**

Students who have completed first year biology with a “B” or better will have the option to earn college credit at B.C.C. This credit will be for a grade not pass/fail and all course work must be completed at Issaquah High School.

- **Other:**

This course, like all science courses, requires a consistent systematic approach to learning it does not lend itself well to sporadic, off and on study habits. This course is an advanced course that is not designed to be preparatory for any specific advanced placement exam.