



International School Bangkok

Foundations Grade 9 Science

Course Length: 2 semesters Course Overview 2011/2012

Teachers & Contacts

Ms. Karen Reau (EAL) Period 2 Room 214 karenre@isb.ac.th

EAL Office: Room 8-410 Science Office: Room 3-213

Course Description

This course has been designed to cover Biology, Chemistry and Physics at a level and pace that is both challenging and accessible to grade nine beginning ESL students, while concurrently developing their competence with the academic language needed for further scientific studies in English at the high school level. The course curriculum provides both a language strand and a content strand (that dovetails the Grade 9 Science curriculum at ISB). Students will study all three primary sciences in an equal time allocation throughout the year. Inquiry skills will be a very important part of the study of each discipline. Biology topics include Biological Diversity, Cells and Systems, and Respiration and Photosynthesis. Chemistry topics include Atomic Structure and Bonding, Chemical Change, and Metals and the Reactivity Series. Physics topics include: Kinematics (forces), Dynamics (motion) and Work and Energy. Introductory scientific inquiry techniques are learned with computer assisted data collection and analysis. The language strand will cover academic reading, writing, speaking and listening skills, and vocabulary and grammar key to developing scientific literacy in the high school. Foundations students earn 1 science credit (0.5 credits each semester), upon successful completion of the course.

Learner Outcomes

Learner outcomes will be distributed to students prior to the beginning of each new topic of study.

Materials needed

- Binder with Dividers and 3-hole lined Paper
- Flash drive
- Calculator
- Electronic dictionary (daily use)
- Paper L₁/L₂ dictionary (tests, exams, quizzes)

Grading Categories

Student grades are calculated using a 'total points' system, with the point allocation approximately the following in the Science Broad Learning Categories:

Knowledge with Understanding	50%
Experimental Skills & Inquiry	30%
Data Management	20%

Assessment Techniques

- Experimental & inquiry skills assessment
- Written laboratory reports
- Independent Research Projects (IRP's)
- Reading assignments and review questions
- Tests and Quizzes both formative & summative
- Data Management problems
- End of Semester Exam (approximately 15% of total assessment points)

REPORTING

Using PowerSchool (<http://powerschool.isb.ac.th>) you can access your grade and comments at any time. The **cumulative** semester grade for this course will appear on the official school transcript

Habits & Attitudes To Learning (HAL)

HAL is the component of assessment that addresses daily work habits such as attendance, preparation for class, homework completion, motivation, and behavior. Assessment in this area does not contribute directly to the grade calculation. A rubric with expectations is in your student handbook on page 8 and 9.

Classroom Procedures

Students are responsible for any missed work and/or assignments due to absences. It is your responsibility to see the teacher to set a completion date.

Students are encouraged to seek extra help and laboratory time as needed. Ms. Reau is in the EAP Center (8-413) EVERY MONDAY from 2:15-3:15 pm, and Grade 9 science teachers hold study sessions for Grade 9 Science EVERY WEDNESDAY from 2:15 - 3:00 pm in Room 3-214.

If you are having problems with any aspect of this course, please see your teacher immediately. Your teacher is happy to help you.