

Agriculture Science

Course Syllabus

2010-2011

Instructor: Miss Quigg

Location: EHS Room 316

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Course Description: Agriculture Science is designed to provide students with a basic overview of the agri-science industry. Ag Science will incorporate practical, hands-on experience in animal science, food science, natural resources, and plant science. Topics include but are not limited to livestock judging, sensory evaluation, wildlife management, and greenhouse crop production with an emphasis on problem solving and critical thinking skills. Field trips may be scheduled throughout the course to explore specific application or career paths of topics covered. An introduction to the FFA, public speaking, and record books will also be included.

Course Goals: Students will:

- Use the scientific method to conduct experiments
- Develop basic communication skills
- Contact a college/post-secondary institution of his/her choice
- Demonstrate basic parliamentary procedures
- Recite the FFA Creed from memory
- Collect, preserve, and pin 5 different insects
- Assess food webs and mutualistic relationships
- Identify uses for biotechnology
- Compare products using sensory evaluation
- Produce a horticulture crop
- Explore careers in several agri-science fields and create a portfolio of contacts
- Keep an SAE record book on class activities

Primary Texts:

- **Exploring Agriscience** by R.V. Herren. Delmar, Second Edition, 2002.
- **Agriscience: Fundamentals & Applications** by E.L. Cooper. Delmar, Second Edition, 1997.

Attendance: Your attendance is expected at each class. Work missed for unexcused absences **cannot** be made up. Excusal policies are outlined in the EHS Student Handbook.

Clothing: Safety procedures and expectations for specific labs will be reviewed prior to beginning these activities. Specific clothing (i.e. work clothing, sneakers, jackets) may be suggested based on the nature of the activity.

Grading:

Marking period grades:

$$\frac{\text{Points earned}}{\text{Possible points}} \times 100 = \text{Marking Period \%}$$

Final course grade:

The final exam grade includes a written test, practicum assessment, and a project; it will be calculated in the same manner as marking period grades (points earned out of possible points). The final exam grade counts as an additional marking period grade, making it worth 20% of the course grade.

$$\frac{\text{MP1 \%} + \text{MP2 \%} + \text{MP3 \%} + \text{MP4 \%} + \text{Final \%}}{500 \text{ points}} = \text{Course \%} = \text{Letter grade}$$

The grading scale aligns with the district's grading policy:

A 93-100 A- 90-92
B+ 88-89 B 83-87 B- 80-82
C+ 78-79 C 73-77 C- 70-72
D+ 68-69 D 63-67 D- 60-62
F 0-59

Example:

A student earns an 88% for MP1, a 92% for MP2, a 95% for MP3, an 84% for MP4, and a 65% on the final. His/her grade would be calculated as follows:

$$\frac{88 + 92 + 95 + 84 + 65}{500} = 85 = B$$

Assessments:

Classwork: Students will be graded on in class participation in debates or discussions. In addition to answering questions, following directions, staying on task, and listening attentively will also be considered when assessing participation.

Homework assignments: Homework typically consists of completion of in-class assignments and projects as needed. Homework should be completed outside of class and should be turned in on the date it is due.

SAE Record Books: Students will keep a research record book on specific class labs. Students will be required to submit their records for a grade.

Quizzes: Quizzes will be based on assigned readings and in-class materials, activities, and discussions. Students may use their notes and any worksheets/handouts in their notebooks.

Projects/Exams: At least five unit assessments will be given in this course. The tentative date of each exam or project due date will be announced a week in advance and may be adjusted as needed. Exams will cover information and activities given in class as well as homework assignments and may include but are not limited to multiple choice, true/false, short answer, and essay questions. Students will be given the full period to complete each exam. **Absence from an exam must be documented by an EHS approved excuse (note from the Attendance Office) in order to be made up.** Projects, papers, and presentations may also serve as unit assessments.

NOTES:

- All late work will receive a deduction based on the following scale:
 - One day late: 10% deduction
 - Two days late: 30% deduction
 - Three days late: automatic zero, no opportunity to submit for grade
- Deductions are taken from the grade the student earns on the assignment.
 - Ex: If a student earns a 35/40 but turns the assignment in
ONE day late, he/she will earn 31.5/40
TWO days late, he/she will earn 24.5/40
THREE or MORE days late, he/she will earn 0/40
- Students who are absent the day an assignment is due are expected to submit the assignment the day they return to school. Students will receive the corresponding deduction if the assignment is submitted after their initial return.
 - Ex: If a student is absent Friday, and there is an assignment due (that was assigned that week or earlier in the marking period), and the student returns to school on Tuesday, the assignment is expected on Tuesday. Submitting it on Wednesday would result in a 10% deduction.
 - Students will be given extensions for assignments given the day of their absence(s) as outlined in the student handbook.
- Students who elect not to participate in specific labs must complete a two page paper covering the topic to replace the lab grade. Specific details regarding paper expectations are available from the teacher.
- Plagiarism will NOT be tolerated. See student handbook for academic consequences.

CLASS RULES

- Respect yourself.
- Respect others.
- Respect your environment.
- I have a right to teach; you have a right to learn; others have a right to learn – neither you nor I will deprive another person of his or her rights.

STEPS TO DISCIPLINE PLAN

- 1st Incident – Warning/Conference
 - Teacher writes student's name on board
 - Student stays and after class to discuss inappropriate behavior with teacher
- 2nd Incident (cumulative) – Detention
 - Teacher writes student's name on board
 - Student signs detention assignment form
 - Student serves a 15 minute detention with teacher after school and writes a corrective action plan

NOTE: Failure to sign a detention assignment form or to report to the assigned teacher detention results in an automatic administrative referral

- 3rd Incident (cumulative) – Contact Parent
 - Teacher writes student's name on board
 - Student signs detention assignment form
 - Student serves a 30 minute detention with teacher after school
 - Teacher contacts parent and informs of inappropriate behavior(s)
- 4th and Subsequent Incidents – Administrative Referral
 - Consequences are assigned by the administration

- Here is a list of the kinds of things that will get your name written on the board (this is not an exhaustive list):
 - Disrespect
 - Disruptive noises
 - Inappropriate/vulgar language
 - Extraneous, disruptive, off-task talking
 - Intentional destruction of property
 - Entering off limits areas without permission
 - Violating safety rules and policies
 - Improper attire for lab or shop environment

- All electronic devices in sight (cell phones, iPods, PSPs, etc.) will be confiscated and taken to the office. (See student handbook for retrieval policies) Additional disruptions resulting from confiscation will result in disciplinary action as outlined above.

- NOTE: The teacher reserves the right to adjust disciplinary consequences based on the severity of the student's violation of rules and policies. Specifically in situations relating to safety, one or more of the preliminary consequences may be bypassed.

CLASS POLICIES AND ROUTINES

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Behavior appropriate to high school students is expected.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enter the room quietly, go to your assigned seat, and get out your class notes/materials. If there is an activity on the board, please begin working.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• You should have something to write with (pen/pencil) and your notebook with you every day. You do not need a textbook for this class – there are sets of textbooks in the classroom available for use. Non-graphing calculators are recommended and will be needed for specific activities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All purses and bags must be placed on the floor and out of the aisles. Do not keep them on the desks.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I do not expect a silent room, but I do expect an orderly room. When someone is talking, you are to respect the speaker by being quiet and by listening.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you have a question, please raise your hand and ask. The only stupid questions are the ones you never ask!
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leaving class for bathroom, nurse, etc.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ You MUST use your agenda or ask for a hall pass. Once I have signed your pass, you must sign out on the clipboard before leaving.○ You will be permitted to leave the room during the first five (5) minutes of class only (unless there is a bona fide emergency).○ Only one student may leave class at a time.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Absences<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ You are responsible for obtaining work and making up assignments you missed while you were absent○ Ask a classmate what you missed and check the absentee bin BEFORE coming to me
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The following areas are considered off limits and are to be used on an “invitation ONLY” basis (students must be asked or told to enter):<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Miss Quigg’s office○ FFA Office○ Shop tool room○ Loft○ Storage room
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• FOOD AND DRINK (excluding water) ARE NOT PERMITTED IN THE CLASSROOM AT ANY TIME. If these items are in plain sight, they will be confiscated and placed in the trash can or poured down the drain. You may NOT pick them up after class or after school. Gum will be permitted unless it becomes a problem.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Housekeeping items – location of essential questions, water fountains, fire exits, 3-hole punch, art supplies, etc
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please keep the classroom neat. Before leaving, make sure you have all your belongings. Your desk and work areas should be as clean as when you entered the room. Please push your chair in or place it on top of the desk (at the end of the day).

AG SCIENCE
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Student Name: _____

I have read, reviewed, and understand the course outline, class rules, and policies and procedures for this course. If I have any concerns throughout the school year, I will contact the teacher to resolve them.

Student's Signature

Date

Parent's Signature

Date