

AGRICULTURE BIOLOGY

Course Syllabus

Los Molinos High School
Agriculture Department
7900 Sherwood Blvd
Los Molinos, CA 96055

Ms. Tenneson
ktenneso@lmsd.net
(530) 384-7900
Room: 205

*****THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT INSTRUCTOR DISCRETION*****

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Agriculture Biology is a one year laboratory science course. It is designed for the college bound student with career interests in agriculture and satisfies the UC subject "D" and CSU Lab Science Requirements. Using agriculture as the learning vehicle, the course emphasizes the principles, central concepts and inter-relationships among the following topics: the molecular and cellular aspects of life, the chemical and structural basis of life, growth and reproduction in plants and animals, evolution of modern plants and domestic livestock species, plant and animal genetics, taxonomy of modern agricultural plants and animals, animal behavior, ecological relationships among plants, animals, humans and the environment, nutrition in animals, health and diseases in animals, and the similarities between animals and humans. This course is centered on an extensive laboratory component in order to connect the ideas of life science with agricultural applications, earth and physical science principals, and other curricular areas, including written and oral reporting skills.

THE FFA COMPONENT

The FFA, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is a national organization found in thousands of high schools across the United States. The goals of the organization are to develop leadership, cooperation, and citizenship in its members. You automatically became a member of the National FFA Organization when you enrolled in this agriculture class. Becoming involved in the FFA will help you develop valuable leadership, social, and public speaking skills. It is an integral part of this course.

One of the National FFA Organization's requirements is for every FFA member to have an agriculturally related project. These projects are termed Supervised Agriculture Experience or SAEs. The students are to keep accurate records on their SAEs, in which they will produce a product or provide a service, and hopefully make a profit. The project is the actual, hands-on application of concepts and principles learned in the agricultural education classroom. Students are supervised by their ag teachers in cooperation with parents, employers and other adults who assist them in the development and achievement of the SAE

CLASSROOM WEBSITE

www.tennesonagsci.com

This website will allow students and parents to stay up to date on all in class and outside of class assignments and notes. Ms. Tenneson will update the website weekly, adding lecture Power Points, handouts, assignments, links etc. If a student is absent from class, they may access the missed



materials via the course website. NOTE: Ms. Tenneson will NOT print any missing assignments for students! It is the student responsibility to access the missing information and get it turned in on time.

GOOGLE CLASSROOM

Google classroom will be used frequently in and out of class as well. This online classroom will be a platform for presenting assignments, quizzes, and surveys. It will also be utilized to turn assignments in to Ms. Tenneson. Students are responsible to check in to their Google Classroom regularly to look for updates.

COURSE GOALS

1. Utilize agricultural applications as a relevant vehicle to teach biological science principles and improve the scientific literacy of students.
2. Strengthen instruction in science for students pursuing professional level careers in agriculture.
3. Integrate mathematical standards, language arts standards, and career employability standards, including creative thinking, problem solving skills, and technological literacy related to the agricultural industry.
4. Meet a portion of the laboratory science requirement for admission to the University of California and California State University systems.
5. Develop a sense of the relationships between life, earth, and physical science as well as their relationship to agriculture.
6. To motivate underrepresented populations in science and agriculture.

TEXTBOOK: Modern Biology. Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 2002.

Each Student will be issued a textbook to keep in their locker and for use at home. Textbooks should be kept in good condition and be available at school every day for class work or homework assignments. A student that does not have their textbook when required will be issued a tardy for being unprepared.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance and participation are a vital part of success in this class. If you have an **EXCUSED ABSENCE** it is your responsibility to make up any work that was done on that day (just because your absence is excused, does NOT mean you are excused from the work!).

THINGS YOU WILL NEED

- **Chromebook**- Students will need to bring their Chromebook to class everyday **FULLY** charged and ready to use at the beginning of class. This is just as vital
- **Textbook** - Please keep in good shape and have it at school each day. I will inform student when they need to bring it to class
- **Binder or Folder** - This tool contains vital coursework, reading materials and worksheets and it to be brought to class everyday! You should have a system to keep all handouts and materials organized.
- **Notebook or Notebook Paper** - Although handouts will be utilized during lecture and lab, **YOU** are ultimately responsible for all material presented in class. Notebook paper will allow you to capture notes on your own and practice your note taking skills.



- **AET Login** - All records of your SAE are to maintained in the AET. Record b Please keep in good condition and follow all instructions. Replacement cost is \$5.00.
- **Laboratory Facilities and Equipment** are provided for your use. Every student is responsible for treating these with care. Failure to do so will result in a referral to the principal for destruction of school property and/or payment of replacement costs.

COURSE PROCEDURES

- **Homework** - There will be approximately 2-3 hours of homework per week. Homework is due at the beginning of class in the "Due Today" basket (not the middle or at the end).
- **Detention may be given if homework is continuously not completed.**
- **Late Work** - Late homework assignments will only be accepted for HALF credit. If you wish to earn full credit, homework MUST be turned in when due.
- **Missing Work** - Every student is responsible for obtaining and completing their missing assignments. If a student is absent (excused or unexcused), their assignment or handout can be found on the "Student Center" wall. The assignments are organized by course name and day of the week. Assignments found in the "Student Center" will be student specific- meaning it will have the absent students name on it. **ONLY THAT STUDENT MAY TAKE THAT ASSIGNMENT.** These assignments will remain in the student center for **ONE WEEK ONLY.** At the end of the one week deadline, students only way to obtain the missing work is via the classroom website or Google Classroom. NOTE: Ms. Tenneson is **NOT** printing any missing assignments.
- **I refuse to grade assignments I can't read.** Please proofread assignments before turning them in (this includes ink color- NO neon gel pens!)
- **Extra credit will be distributed for extra effort** and will not be used as a replacement tool for missing assignments. Do the regular assigned work **FIRST** before asking for extra credit.
- **Student Planner** - Each student is issued a planner at the beginning of the school year. Planner checks will take place every other week (Minimum Wednesdays). Filled out and completed planners with earn 5 extra credit points.
- **Weekly Quizzes** - A quiz covering material learned so far will be given weekly.

GRADE REPORTS

Teacher generated grade reports will be sent home every other week. They are to be signed by a parent/guardian for 5 extra credit points. Any mistakes need to be immediately pointed out to the teacher so they can be corrected.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

- **Responsibility** - You are expected to keep track of all in class and out of class assignments and corresponding due dates.
- **Exercise Good Judgment** - Always think before you speak or act. Also, manage your time both in and outside of class.
- **Study** - Truly learning the subject will require effort on your part. Studying outside of class is vital to your success.
- **Be Prepared** - Bring class binder, notebook, papers, pens/pencils, and yes, even your BRAIN! Neglecting to bring the proper materials on a routine basis will result in loss of participation points.



- **Respect** - All students have the right to learn and achieve without the interference of others.
 - Exhibiting prejudice or prejudicial behaviors will **NOT** be tolerated.
 - Appropriate language should be used at all times.
 - Interruption of the teacher or another student who is speaking is rude and limits the opportunity for others to learn.
- **Classroom Rules** - Food, drinks (with the exception of water at your desk), will **NOT** be allowed in the classroom. Los Molinos High School dress code will be followed daily.
- **Timeliness** - Please be on time! Tardiness will **NOT** be tolerated. This means being in your seat with pen, paper, homework, etc. ready before the tardy bell rings!

TECHNOLOGY IN AND OUT OF THE CLASSROOM

Ms. Tenneson absolutely **LOVES** technology! We will be incorporating as much of it in the classroom as possible. Therefore, if you have a cell phone, tablet, etc.. bring it on! But wait, there is a catch!

- All technological devices have a specific **TIME AND PLACE** for use.
- Technology use will be a huge portion of our class, but can be taken away very easily
- Technology will be used to communicate, assignments, reminders, expectations and even quizzes and tests!
- Appropriate use of technology is expected at all times - no exceptions

PARENT EXPECTATIONS

- **Studying** - Provide student with a quiet place to study and needed materials.
- **Monitor** - Monitor student progress (sign weekly agendas and biweekly grade printouts).
- **Encourage**- Encourage student to focus on their education and goals.

TEACHER EXPECTATIONS

- Help all students to understand scientific concepts and apply them to life.
- Keep students and parents/guardians informed of grades and behavior.
- Respect students' right to learn (suspensions and detentions will be given to students distracting the classroom environment).
- Follow and enforce school rules.
- Help students develop the skills and tools needed to be successful.
- Share the love of agriculture!

FFA PARTICIPATION

All students are required to attend 3 FFA activities at the Chapter level per semester (a total of 6 per year). Additionally, students will be expected to utilize their interpersonal communication skills to communicate and practice Agriculture Leadership in the form of FFA activities. This participation is worth 10% of your grade. Please see the FFA calendar for a list of all FFA activities offered.

AGRISCIENCE PROJECTS

Each student is required to complete an Agriscience project over the course of the first semester. Students will be required to work on these projects both inside and outside of class. Following the scientific method, students will be asked to assemble a board in order to display the results of their project. All students will be required to compete at a number of FFA competitions during the second semester.



COURSE FORMAT

45% Laboratory

- Science Laboratory Experiences
- Research Projects
- Science/Agriscience Fair Projects

30% Classroom Instruction

- Discussion
- Warm-Ups
- Demonstration
- Lecture
- Reading Assignments

15% Homework Assignments

10% FFA Credits & Leadership Experience

- Students must earn a minimum of 3 FFA Credits per semester
- Written and Verbal Communication Exercises
- Leadership Development Activities
- Supervised Agriculture Experience Projects

Grading Scale

- A= 100% - 90%
- B= 89% - 80%
- C= 79% - 70%
- D= 69% - 60%
- F= 59% and below

GRADING POLICIES

Because of the subjective nature of the hands-on atmosphere, grading is broken into three styles.

When there clearly is a right or wrong answer, points are awarded on a pass/fail basis. For example, on a multiple choice exam, there can only be one right answer.

More often than not, however, an answer can be partially right or wrong. This is especially true for short-answer questions and essays. In this case, grades are assigned on a 5 point basis.

- 5 points - PERFECT! Could not have been done any better.
- 4 points - Great, but just shy of perfect.
- 3 points - Proficient, but adequate room for improvement.
- 2 points - Student has not met minimum requirements.
- 1 point - Student made an attempt, but accomplished little.

A +/✓/- may also be used for larger assignments or projects. For this type of circumstance, a + = exceed expectations. ✓ = met expectations. - = redo the assignment.

STUDENT & PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

Please double check that both student and parent/guardian have read through all sections of this syllabus and understand procedures and policies. By signing on the lines below, both student and parent are agreeing to abide by the rules and regulations of Ms. Tenneson's classroom.

Student Name (please print): _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Name (please print): _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date Signed: _____

