

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Introduction to Agriculture

Bill Bretzman

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Description:

This orientation course provides an opportunity for students to learn how the agriculture and industrial industries are organized; their major components; the economic influence of agriculture and industrial technologies at state, national, and international levels; and the scope and types of job opportunities within the industries. Basic concepts in animal science, plant science, soil science, natural resources, business management, mechanics, agricultural biotechnology, food science technology, and environmental science will be presented. The development of leadership, employability and computer skills will also be taught. Because FFA and Supervised Agricultural Experience Programs (SAEPs) are integral components of this course, students are required to maintain SAEPs, will participate in activities of the FFA organization, and will be required to be FFA members.

Course Objectives:

Upon the successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

Explain and understand the role of agriculture.

Explain and understand agricultural history and technological advances in the industry.

Explain and understand the history and the opportunities available in the FFA Organization.

Participate in a meeting room setting using proper parliamentary procedures.

To speak in the presence of an audience, reciting the FFA Creed.

Keep necessary records of an SAE on computerized record keeping system.

Understand the basic principles of raising livestock and/or animals.

To grade and evaluate eggs, chickens, poultry carcasses, and other processed poultry products.

Required Class Materials:

You are required to bring to class: paper, writing utensil, 3 ring binder, flash drive (or storage device). A simple calculator is also recommended.

Text: none

Course Outline:

1st Semester

2 wks – History of Agriculture

2 wks – Role of Agriculture in Society

2nd Semester

3 wks – SAE recordkeeping

4 wks – Poultry industry

4 wks – FFA organization

2 wks – Beef Industry

4 wks – Parliamentary Procedure

2 wks – Dairy Industry

3 wks – Public Speaking / FFA Creed

2 wks - Swine Industry

3 wks – SAE

2 wks – Sheep and Goat Industry

3 wks – Companion Animals

Major Assignments:

Presentation of the FFA Creed. (late Nov. to early Dec.)

Develop an individualized Supervised Agriculture Experience. (December and continue through May)

Complete 1 FFA activity per semester.

Work a minimum of 4 hours in FFA Co-OP per semester.

Grading:

Skyward Name	Category	Weight
Tests	Assessments	35%
In-Class work	Assignments/Labs/Reports/Participation	50%
Homework	SAE & Recordkeeping	10%
Participation	FFA Participation	5%

Class Policies / Procedures / Expectations:

1. Students will be in their seat on time, with writing utensils, 3 ring notebooks, due assignments and any other materials needed for class that day.
2. Students will conduct themselves in a manner that allows everyone the right to a good learning environment.
3. Students shall leave materials and objects in the classroom and/or lab alone unless instructed or given permission to use them.
4. Students will participate in classroom and/or lab instruction and activities at all times.
5. Students will be dismissed from class when all materials are returned to proper storage area and teacher verbally dismisses them.
6. Students will confer with teacher if they feel all possible tasks have been completed.
7. Students’ heads will be in a upright attentive position without the support of their arms and hands.

8. Students will contact me the day they return from an absence, to update student on missed classroom/lab/greenhouse activities.

Miscellaneous: FFA is an integral role of agriculture education. Students are required to be a member of the organization, and attend 1 activity per month. The activity can be a chapter meeting, contest, convention, community service project, etc. \$10 dues are due October 1, 2009

Students must work outside of the classroom hours at the department cooperative. Student hours will be worked during regular coop hours (Tuesday 3:30-5:30 pm and Saturday 8:00 -11:30 am). Meeting the minimum hours required/semester will be reflected as 50% of the semester exam.

Instructor Contact:

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