**Biology Ag Science** – Westlake High School

99 North 200 West

Saratoga Springs, Utah 84045

**Course Title:** Ag Biology –Room B112

**Course Description:** This course is a study of the details of Biology from an agricultural perspective. Student will develop knowledge and skills in a wide range of scientific principles, including ecology, cells, organ systems, genetics, and evolution. The scientific processes of observation, measurement, hypothesizing, data gathering, interpretation, analysis, and application are included. Career opportunities and educational preparation are examined. Learning activities are varied, with classroom, laboratory, and field experiences emphasized. Along with this course students will learn and be involved in the FFA program which is a leadership organization that is integrated in the agriculture curriculum.

**Teacher:** Nathan Rindlisbaker Bachelors of Science from Utah State University

**Materials:** A spiral notebook designated for Biology

Something to write with (I will not supply you with a writing instrument)

Textbook (you never know when you may need it)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Outline of Course (we may go faster or slower depending on how quickly the class  Understands the material) | |
| **1st quarter grading period-**   * **Standard One** – FFA * **Standard Two** – Supervised Agriculture Experience (SAE) * **Standard Three** – Microscope Use/Ecology * **Science Project** | **2nd quarter grading period –**   * **Standard Four** –Chemistry of Life * **Standard four split** – Cell Structure * **Standard Five** – Cell reproduction * **Science Project** |
| **3rd quarter grading period -**   * **Standard Six Split** – Genetics * **Standard Six Split** – Genetics * **Standard Seven - DNA** | **4th quarter grading period –**   * **Standard Seven** – evolution * **Standard Eight** – classification/diversity * **Review for State Exam** |

**Types of Assignments:**

Students will take part in two levels of assessments: The first being homework, classwork, participation, and quizzes. The second being Tests, and projects/presentations.

You can turn these assignments in late …. However a 10% reduction will occur for turning in the assignment one day late. A 50% reduction will occur for any more than one day late

\*\* If a student needs to make up a unit. The students will have two weeks from the end of the unit to make up/remediation to take place. The student will be able to get as many points possible for credit recovery of that unit.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **45% *“Student Engagement”*** | **50% *“Assessments”*** |
| Homework | Tests |
| Classroom Work | Performance |
| Everything else except assessments | Finished Products |
|  | Student Presentations |
| **5% “Participation”** |  |

**Skills Testing Preparation:**  As part of this course, you will be asked to complete the State Skills Test at the end of the year. You will be given test questions each week to complete and these questions will be part of your grade.

**Grading Scale:**

**Grades are weighted as follows:**

Unit Tests/Assessments

50%

Notebook, labs, quizzes, Assignments

45%

Being on Time and Participation

5%

**Numerical Scale Reporting Grade**

94-100 A 90-93 A- 87-89 B+

86-83 B 80-82 B- 77-79 C+

73-76 C 70-72 C- 69-0 F/I

**\*It should be noted that being on time and participation in class are important and are counted as part of the points earned in class**

**Remediation:** Aside from the advisory time offered in class daily, I will be holding remediation once a week on Wednesday mornings from 7:00 AM – 7:30 AM. If you need help with a concept, or need to make up an assessment this is your time to come and visit and complete the work.

**Retakes:** Retakes will not be allowed on assessments, however reworking missed problems may be granted based upon the class average as determined by the instructor.

**Computer Programs, Apps, and Software:**

Throughout the course students will use a few different programs and apps. The Westlake FFA is an integral part of the agriculture education program at Westlake High School. The chapter is an affiliated FFA chapter with the Utah FFA Association and the National FFA Organization. All students registered for an agriculture education course at Westlake High School is also a registered FFA member. The National FFA Organization requires the chapter to register their students through **FFA.org** into their roster programs. By being a registered member students receive a quarterly magazine as well as qualifies the students to be able to use all applications available to apply for awards, as well as scholarships. In addition the agriculture program uses **TheAET.com (App)** which is a record keeping program for student’s projects and jobs. Students are entered in this program using their first and last name and a generic password, which they change after logging in the first time. This class also utilizes the Agri-Science application and report format for the science projects they will work on 1st semester.

Along with the class at the end of the year students will be required to log into **Precision Exams** which is where they will take the state skills test which is the company and program used by the State Board of Education.

If any other programs or apps are used you as parents will be notified prior to them being implemented.

**Skyward:**

You and your parents should monitor your grades regularly by accessing Skyward. I will update grade every Thursday and Friday.

**Hall Pass:**

Each student is allowed to use the hall pass bathroom needs. There will be a 2 minutes time limit on the hall pass use. We are very close to the restroom so 2 minutes should be sufficient. If the student feels they are going to need long they need to let the instructor know. Hall pass use to visit with other teachers, counselors and/or friends in the hall will not be permitted. Hall pass abuse will be determined by the instructor and the student may lose their privilege of using the hall pass if abuse happens.

**Attendance Policy:**

Below is a brief description of the schools attendance policy. For more information regarding this policy please refer to the student handbook or school

website at http://whs.alpineschools.org/

**TARDY**

* A student shall be considered tardy if they are not in the classroom when the bell rings. After 20 minutes of class time a student is considered absent and must have an admittance note from the office to enter class. Future information regarding the tardy policy in this class can be found in the listed section at the beginning of this course disclosure.
* Tardies; 1-2 Warning with student from teacher.
* Tardy; 3 Parent Contact by teacher phone or email recorded in Skyward (SIS) and Referral form filled out.
* Tardy; 4 Referral from teacher to Office and grade dropped to a NC. Referral form must follow student to the office with intervention steps documented. *Office will return referral form with steps taken and intervention steps to be followed by student.*

**ABSENCE**

* Excessive un-excused absences will be dealt with by the student advocates and administration over the student’s portion of the alphabet.
* 1 unexcused absence by a student at any time in the term will be a grade drop to a NC. Truancy letter will be sent home. Parent will have the current term to clear an absence.

**MAKE-UP AVENUES FOR STUDENTS**

* Attendance school
* Wed. morning FREE 6:15 - 7:15
* Mon. after school $3.00 1:20 - 2:20
* Wed. after school $3.00 2:20 - 3:20
* Teacher Make-up—This is Free for the student
* Students can pick up the form from the Attendance Office.
* Once completed, the teacher must turn the form into the Attendance Office.
* Students are allowed to make-up 1 hour of attendance with the teacher over the class that has a NC. Teacher make-up is due 1 week before the end of the term.
* Time for make-up;
* 1 hour = 1 unexcused absence
* 2 hours = 1 truancy
* .5 hour = 1 tardy

**Things you need to know:**

* You may call me Mr. Rindlisbaker or Mr. R anything else I will not answer to.
* You can leave my room for two reasons; to go to the bathroom and /or if you are being checked out of school or called to the front office.

1. If you go to the bathroom you have to be back in 5 minutes or less or I will assume you got lost. Along with this, only one person can leave my classroom at a time.
2. Many students are checked out during the day and/or called to the front office or counselor’s office. If this is the case you are permitted to leave when called. However, you must be called either through the school phone or intercom system in order to leave. If students are outside the classroom door without permission or leave class without permission they will be called in truant from class. No exceptions.

* The gas valves, sinks, cabinets are off limits unless we are using them in lab. If you choose to be in these areas without permission, then you will be cleaning that area.
* If you have a phone, it may be used in class for research purposes. If you are not using your device in a proper educational way I will take it. It will be available for retrieval after school is dismissed for the day.

**Discipline Plan:**

Discipline problems are dealt with on a, as needed basis. If there are problems that arise in the class, the following format will be used:

* First offense: Verbal Warning
* Second offence: Parent Contact
* Third offence: Office referral

**FFA Membership:**

This class is part of a complete Agriculture Program. FFA will be taught and participation encouraged according to the state curriculum. The National FFA Organization is the nation’s largest youth leadership organization. The main focus of the FFA is to develop leadership traits in youth. The FFA is a vital organization at Westlake High School. Westlake FFA is a Affiliated FFA Chapter with the National Organization, which means every students enrolled in a agricultural class at Westlake High School is a member of the FFA. The student dues have already been paid for the students at Westlake High School. By being a members of the FFA students will be able to participate in contests, develop leadership skills, the ability to be eligible for over one million dollars worth of scholarships, the ability to qualify to receive a number of awards. Full FFA membership and participation will also give you several opportunities for extra credit. There is one fee required for all students and all are FFA members which is an activity fee of $5.00. Please pay your $5.00 fee in the finance office and bring the receipt to Mr. Gowans.

**Contact Information:** Email: [nrindlisbaker@alpinedistrict.org](mailto:nrindlisbaker@alpinedistrict.org) Office Phone: 801-610-8815

This syllabus is a tentative outline of this course and may be changed as deemed necessary by the instructor. If changes are made, students will be notified prior to the change.

**(Please return this form by the first Friday the class meets)**

I have read and understand the syllabus for Mr. Gowans Animal Science Class:

You may email me with your approval or simply sign the sheet and return the signature portion.

Student Signature Date

Parent/Guardian Signature Date