

Introduction to Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources or Exploring Agriculture 2022 - 2023 Syllabus

Course Description:

Grade 8

This semester course provides students with an introduction to the exciting world of Agriculture. This is a hands-on class with many opportunities for you to participate in activities both indoor and outdoor. Course topics include Careers in the largest industry in the US (Agriculture), developing improved leadership, community service and interpersonal skills through FFA, soil or the dirt beneath us, plants of all sorts, forestry including tree identification, natural resources of the world, understanding the science of the food we eat, understanding the needs and benefits of animals, greenhouse plant production, gardening in our school garden, and learning how equipment and structures work and the tools to repair or build. This class is right for you if you enjoy learning about this amazing experience of producing the food and fiber for our world through many hands-on activities.

Course Objectives:

At the Completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Investigate concepts that enable the understanding of today's agriculture industry and its importance to the world we live in.
2. Students demonstrate understanding of the necessity for and importance of the modern animal science industry.
3. Students will connect the significance of plant and soil science to the Agricultural Industry and their lives.
4. Students will be able to formulate educated viewpoints surrounding the food science industry and modern practices.
5. Students will develop and demonstrate a basic knowledge of Agricultural Mechanics and physical science.
6. Students will be able to compare career opportunities within the Agricultural Industry as well as demonstrate qualities, attributes and skills necessary to succeed in or further prepare for a career.
7. Students will recognize and develop skill sets pertaining to leadership and communication to more positively evolve as a whole persons.

Supplies:

Pen/Pencil everyday

Notebook

Chromebook or Personal Computer

Topics

- Agricultural Careers
- Opportunities in FFA
 - FFA History
 - Career Development Opportunities
 - Supervised Agricultural Experiences
 - Indiana FFA Opportunities
- Indiana Soils & Natural Resources
 - Soil Properties
 - Importance of soil
 - Forests and their importance
 - Tree Identification
 - Recycling
- Agriculture Mechanics
 - Safety in Agriculture Mechanics
 - Tool Identification
- Food Science
 - Food Science Industry
 - Benefits of Food Science
 - Food Safety
- Animal Science
 - Anatomy & Physiology
 - Classification & Terminology
 - Types & Uses of Livestock
- Horticulture & Plant Science
 - Plant Anatomy
 - Greenhouse Production
 - Vegetable Production
- Leadership
 - Examine type of Leadership and Roles
 - Communication skills

- FFA and Leadership

Class Evaluation

Individual assignments will be scored individually and team assignments as a team with some modification of team reports or effort and degree of participation. Each assignment will be collected, evaluated and returned to the student. Some assignments may be corrected and returned until acceptable mastery level is accomplished.

25% of the grade is based on participation. Cell phone or ear listening devices used (or seen) in class will result in 0 points for participation for that day. Other distractions will be rated on each case. Daily participation grades will be posted each week. If I make an error in assessing your participation, ask me to change it.

50% of the grade is based on quizzes, exams and homework assignments.

25% of the grade is based on skill development and activity engagement.

Grading scale

A+	4.00 (100%)
A	4.00 (99% - 92%)
A-	3.66 (91%-90%)
B+	3.33 (89% - 88%)
B	3.00 (87%-82%)
B-	2.66 (81%-80%)
C+	2.33 (79%-78%)
C	2.00 (77%-72%)
C-	1.66 (71%-70%)
D+	1.33 (69%-68%)
D	1.00 (67%-62%)
D-	.66 (61%-60%)
F	.00 (59% - 0%)

Course Activities:

1. Readings- Students will be expected to read given assignments from literature related to the topic. The reading assignments will be evaluated by written and/or oral examinations.
2. Group Assignments- Students will be expected to participate in peer team learning activities & projects where they will learn to respectfully function in groups.
3. Laboratory- Students will be expected to complete laboratory assignments and follow all safety rules in Lab and Shop areas.
4. Exams and Tests- Exams and Tests will be administered to determine mastery of the information using various methods throughout the semester.

