

# **BIOLOGY AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE SYLLABUS**

**Course:** Biology & Sustainable Agriculture

**Instructor:** Mrs. Alvarez

**Email:** malvarez@fuhsd.net

**Website:** www.mrsalvarezclass.org

**Office Phone:** 760-723-6300 ext. 2507



Welcome to the Agriculture Department! As an agriculture student you will be a member of the FFA which is the largest student organization in California with over 89,000 members. As an FFA member you will have the opportunity to be involved in leadership activities, skills contests, fairs and judging activities. This year will be exciting and rewarding as you become more involved. Part of this course will include hands-on opportunities outside of the classroom. Outside work will be in the garden, greenhouse and on the school farm. Please make sure you are appropriately dressed to work outside comfortably and modestly.

**OUR MISSION** The Fallbrook Union High School District, in partnership with the parents and community, offers all educational opportunities that enable them to function effectively as citizens, life-long learners, and workers in a global society.

**OUR VISION** The Fallbrook Union High School District will create a national model of educational excellence which will be the pride of our community and will meet the needs of every student and staff member in the twenty-first century.

## **Course Description:**

The goal of this course is to give students the opportunity to explore biology as it relates to sustainable agriculture. Topics to be studied include opportunities in the FFA, California agriculture, animal production, plant production genetics and record keeping. Furthermore students are required to participate in at least four FFA activities per semester, which may include leadership training experiences offered by the FFA.

## **Goals/Objectives:**

1. Students will gain a greater knowledge and understanding for the agriculture industry.
2. Students will receive hands-on experience.

3. Students will learn record keeping skills using the FFA Record Book on theAET.com.
4. Each student will further develop leadership skills through involvement in the FFA.

**Content Standards:**

Biology/Life Sciences - Grades Nine through Twelve Science Content Standards  
[www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/scbiology.asp](http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/scbiology.asp)

Agriculture Content Standards Grades 9-12

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/ct/sf/documents/ctestandards.pdf>

**Grading Policy:**

Students will be graded on a weighted point system. Each category will be given a certain percentage of the total grade. The categories of grades and percentages are as follows:

<b>Assessments-</b> Tests, Quizzes, Projects, Labs	20%
<b>Assignments-</b> Classwork, Labs and Participation	50%
<b>Leadership-</b> FFA Unit and FFA Activities (4 activities/sem.)	15%
<b>SAE Project-</b> (documented in Recordbook)	15%

The standard grading scale will be used to calculate the letter grade:

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

**Homework:**

This course will have no homework assigned. There will be times when students may not finish assignments in class or asked to further their knowledge on specific topics after instructional time, however I will not assign additional work to the course work done in class.

**Late Work Policy:**

Any completed assignment turned in late will receive reduced credit. Projects and labs will not be accepted late.

**Make Up Work/Tests:**

If you have an excused absence from school, you have 1 day for every day absent to make up the work. If you missed a test, you have 1 week to make up the test. It is the student's responsibility to ask for missing assignments and obtain notes taken during the absence. Make up work needs to be completed outside of class time so that no additional work is missed.

**Textbook Used:**

- The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. (2007). Glencoe Science: Biology

### **Recommended Supplies**

- 100 sheet notebook -REQUIRED 8.5 X 10 pages recommended.
- Glue sticks, colored pencils, stapler (if desired)
- Lined paper, ruler, pen and pencil

### **Notebook Specifications:**

You will be keeping a spiral notebook (Ag notebook) that will include all notes, handouts, labs, reviews, quizzes and tests. Assignments will be graded from the notebook. It is important to have this notebook with you everyday therefore it will be kept in class. How well you keep your notebook will affect your ability to study and thus impact your grade. It is strongly recommended that you buy a 8X11 size notebook, one subject, plastic cover. I will show examples in class.

### **Behavioral Guidelines**

Classroom, Laboratory and Outside Expectations

- Prompt- on time
- Prepared- bring your textbook, notebook, paper and pen or pencil.
- Participate- be an active learner and listener
- Polite- respect yourself and others
- Absolutely no gum, food or drink in the classroom! (exception- water in a clear bottle)
- Follow directions the first time
- Follow all of the school rules

*Positive Consequences- verbal praise, positive call or email home, small prizes, extra privileges, reward parties.*

*Negative Consequences- verbal or non-verbal warning, parent contact, detention (school or Ag dept.), and referral to office.*

### **Bathroom Policy**

There are bathrooms at the AG department around the building. You will receive two bathroom passes per semester. It is encouraged that you use the bathroom before and after class so important material covered in class is not missed. If you must use that bathroom you will have your bathroom passes. **BONUS** If you don't use your bathroom passes during the semester they will be collected and put in the grade book as extra credit at the end of every semester.

I/We have read and understand the policies and procedures for this class and agree to follow all class expectations.

Student's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_