

Science Research and Explorations

Course Syllabus and Guidelines

Spring 2010



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Office Hours: After school and during my conference period TBA

Course Description

This course will provide students with the tools to explore the natural world. Students will be introduced to science as a process while gaining intimate knowledge and the skills necessary to conduct a scientific investigation. A student successfully completing this course will understand how to ask meaningful questions; observe, collect and analyze data (using simple statistics); analyze situations and solve problems using more than one discipline of science. Furthermore students will investigate a science-based environmental and societal issue by researching literature, analyzing data, and communicating their findings.

Required Text

At this time there is no required text, although reading packets and science articles will be given from time to time. Student will be responsible for reading these texts.

Assessment and Evaluation

Approximate point distribution:

35% Individual Assignments	This includes assignments such as worksheets, labs, and projects. Although students may collaborate to complete assignments each student is expected to complete their own work.
20%	A current event will be due every Tuesday starting 2/23/10. Several times during the quarter students will be responsible to share out their current event.
15% Semester Project	Details to be announced.
30% Participation and Group work	Students are expected to participate in class and keep class notes and vocabulary in a notebook that will be collected periodically throughout the semester. Science is often a collaborative process. Students will be working in collaborative groups and will turn in one complete assignment as a group.

Grading Scale

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



Extra Credit

From time to time there may arise an opportunity for earning extra points. Although extra credit is offered it is not intended as a replacement for completing regularly assigned work. Students with excessive tardies or any unexcused absences will not be offered extra credit opportunities

MAKE-UP WORK POLICY

The opportunity to earn credit for make-up work applies *only to students with excused absences*. I do not believe that a student who makes the decision not to attend class (skips) should be given extra time on assignments or extra time to study for tests. Students have 2 school days for each day absent to make up assignments, labs, quizzes and exams.

MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES

The following materials will be needed on a daily basis.

- Spiral or Composition Notebook must be in class by _____. If this item cannot be purchased by this date, the student must notify the instructor by _____ so that one can be provided for you.
- Pencils (#2) and Pens (blue and black only!)
- Section of 3-ring binder or folder dedicated to Biology

Some additional materials will be necessary during the course of the semester. An announcement will be made in advance when these materials are needed.

- Colored pencils
- Poster board
- Scientific Calculator

Topic Outline

Due to the evolving nature of this course, the actual activities and topics covered will be determined by current science researches and as well as student interest. No matter what specific topics in science are discussed we will focus on several overarching themes, which permeate throughout the study of science.

1. **Science as a Process**
 - Science as Inquiry
 - Observation, data collection, analysis, and communication
2. **The Culture of Science**
 - Science as a social activity characterized by cooperation and competition.
3. **Science, Technology and Society**
 - Applying scientific knowledge for a specific purpose
 - The role of science in environmental and societal issues.



Classroom Expectations

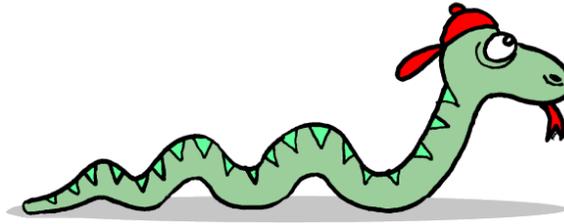
I expected every student to give 100% effort everyday. Students are expected to abide by all University H.S. rules (see student handbook) as well as my classroom rules:

1. **Follow Directions**
2. **Keep hands to yourself**
3. **Use appropriate language**
4. **Dress appropriately for class.**

Consequences for infraction

Depending on the severity of the infraction the steps of discipline are as follows:

1. **Verbal warning**
2. **Teacher assigned detention**
3. **Phone call home**
4. **Parent or Guardian contacted by counselor or an administrator**
5. **Parent or Guardian contacted by counselor or an administrator and class suspension**
6. **Parent or Guardian contacted by counselor or an administrator and possible removal from class.**



Please complete the section below with a parent/guardian and return this portion only by _____ . Keep the rest of the syllabus in your notebook for reference.

I have read and understand the guidelines set forth in this course syllabus.

Student Name _____ Period _____

Student Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Phone Number _____

Parent E-mail _____

Please list the best way to contact you _____

Thank you!
Mr. Fazio