

Agricultural Science and Technology

MIDLAND VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Teacher Name: Jeremy Brooks
Website: www.midlandvalleyffa.com
Email Address: jbrooks@aiken.k12.sc.us
Prerequisites: None
Grade Level: 9-12

School Phone Number: (803)593-7100
Ag. Office Number: (803)593-7142
Office Hours: 7:30 – 4:00 Daily
Length of Course: Year
Credits Earned: One (1) Credit

Materials:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| (1) Clear safety glasses | (4) Single Subject Notebook (Perforated Pages) |
| (2) Work gloves | (5) Pencil and/or Pen (NO RED PENS) |
| (3) Course Notes Book (\$10.00) | |

Course Description:

The Agricultural and Environmental Sciences course is designed to teach essential concepts and understanding related to plant and animal life including biotechnology, the conservation of natural resources, and the impact of agriculture and natural resource utilization on the environment. Emphasis is placed on the role of agriculture in our society and the importance of agriculture on the welfare of the world. Basic personal and community leadership and safety, and agricultural mechanical technology are included as part of the instructional program. Each student is expected to design and participate in a supervised agricultural experience as well as FFA.

Typical learning activities include hands-on learning experiences including performing basic principles of plant, soil, and agricultural mechanics; studying and modeling the significance of humankind's interrelationship with soil, water, and air; participating in FFA activities.

Objectives and Standards:

Given the necessary equipment, supplies, and facilities, the student, upon completion of instructional hours, will be able to successfully complete the listed core competencies.

Expectations of Class Participants:

Participation in daily classroom and laboratory activities is a major part of your grade for this course. ALWAYS be prepared to work outside in various weather and climate conditions and possibly get yourself and your clothes dirty. Space is provided in the classroom for you to leave a change of clothes and/or shoes.

Student Assessments:

GRADING WEIGHTS AND PROCEDURES...

Projects & Labs.....35%

Test35%

Class Work/Quizzes.....10%

SAE Project20%

DUE TO THE FACT THAT I UPDATE AND POST ALL STUDENT GRADES DAILY IN MY CLASSROOM, AS WELL AS UPDATE THEM DAILY IN POWERSCHOOL FOR PARENTAL ACCESS, ANY DISAGREEMENTS OR DISCREPANCIES MUST BE ADDRESSED BY THE STUDENTS OR THEIR PARENT WITHIN FIVE (5) DAYS OF THE DATE OF THE ASSIGNMENT.

The Power of “I”:

The goal of this course is for all students to meet the SC Curriculum Standards at the proficient level. I will offer opportunities for students performing below the standard to receive extra help and time to redo assignments in order that they might reach an accepted level of proficiency. Failure will not be an option and zeros will not be allowed simply because students choose not to work. I believe that late work is just that – late – but it must be completed. This allows me to determine if students know and understand the standards being taught and assessed.

Outlined below are the consequences for any assignments that are late, incomplete, and/or below standard.

No Zero Policy

Students may earn any of the following grades: **A**, **B**, or **C**. Suppose that an assignment is evaluated and the student’s performance deserves a mark lower than a “**C**,” the grade will become incomplete (“**I**”). If a student receives an “**I**” on any assignment, it will be the student’s responsibility to retake/re-do the work.

I will not allow incomplete assignments to stack up!!! If, at any time, an incomplete score(s) appears in the grade book, the following will occur:

- 1 missing assignment = student conference, to result in work being completed
- 2 missing assignments = parent contact, to result in work being completed
- 3 missing assignments = administrative referral, to result in work being completed and disciplinary action

FORMAL ASSESSMENT If a student earns an “**I**” on a test, he/she may retake a new test, but cannot receive an “**A**” or “**B**” on any tests that originally received an incomplete score. All re-worked TEST assignments must be completed during study hall or after school. **No student will be allowed to retake a test during normal class time.**

DAILY GRADES/HOMEWORK All incomplete daily/homework grades may be redone until a “C” is earned. Again, all re-worked daily/homework assignments must be completed during study hall or after school ... in many instances, daily/homework assignments may be taken home for completion. Laziness will not be tolerated. If a student fails to turn in an assignment on time...

- The students will be expected to complete an alternative assignment during study hall
- Once the completed & late homework assignment is turned in, the highest recorded grade will be a “C.” (Late work cannot receive an “A” or “B”).

When an “I” becomes a zero ...

The purpose of the Power of “I” is to increase student achievement and the overall academic rigor at Midland Valley High School. Unfortunately, I will not be able to allow incomplete scores to accumulate indefinitely! In the event that incomplete scores still remain on a student’s record at the end of the quarter, those “I’s” will become the highest recorded grade (in this case, D’s & F’s may appear on a student’s record).

Core Competencies:

SEMESTER 1:

- First Nine Weeks
 - Unit 1 Practicing Safety in the Lab
 - Unit 2 Agricultural Literacy
 - Unit 3 Developing Leadership Skills in Agriculture
 - Unit 4 Supervised Experience in Agriculture
- Second Nine Weeks
 - Unit 1 Outdoor Safety
 - Unit 2 Basic Soil Science Principles

SEMESTER 2:

- Third Nine Weeks
 - Unit 1 Basic Principles of Plant Science
 - Unit 2 Using Agriscience Tools and Equipment
- Fourth Nine Weeks
 - Unit 1 Using Agriscience Tools and Equipment

FFA

AS FFA IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF ALL AGRICULTURAL CLASSES, ALL STUDENTS ENROLLED IN AGRICULTURE WILL BE EXPECTED TO JOIN AND PARTICIPATE. **An annual fee of \$10.00 is required of all students which will enroll them into the FFA at the local, state, and national levels.** Upon becoming a member, FFA students will receive two publications that will be used in classroom activities. All senior members will also become eligible to apply for over \$3 million worth of national

FFA scholarships. All FFA members will be eligible for participation in all of our local, state, and national competitions as well.

Attendance/Make-Up Work

Due to the nature of this course and the extreme emphasis placed on personal participation, daily attendance to class is critical, however, if for any reason you must be absent from class you are responsible for all work missed. Within five (5) days of your return to school, you must arrange with the instructor an appropriate time to complete missed work. In the case of long term projects a reduction of points may be imposed even if you are absent.

Expectations for Student Behavior in the Classroom:

- (1) Be seated when tardy bell rings, in seat NOT on desktop.
- (2) No talking after the tardy bell rings.
- (3) Be respectful of yourself and things and others and their things at all times.
- (4) No getting out of seat and “roaming” around after tardy bell rings.
- (5) No gum allowed in agriculture areas.
- (6) No food or drinks allowed in the agriculture areas
- (7) No purses, backpacks, or other items of this type should be placed on your desk.
These items are to remain on the floor or under your seat at all times.

Consequences for Violation of Rules:

- 1st Offense ----- Verbal Warning
- 2nd Offense ----- After School Detention (1 hour)
- 3rd Offense ----- Written Up To An Administrator

I have read the course syllabus, including the grading policy. I understand the information given and the expectations for this course and agree to abide by the policies stated. I understand that if at any time I have concerns about my child or their performance I can contact Mr. Brooks at the school, by email or telephone.

*Please sign and date. Return by Friday, August 19th. Syllabus must also be signed and dated by a guardian. This copy will be kept on file for the 2011-2012 school year.

Student Name (Print) Date

Student Signature Date

Parent/Guardian Name (Print) Date

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

** Syllabus Subject To Change At Teacher Discretion**