

# Field Biology

Dan Bregar and Jerry Heilman

## Contact Information

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## Course Description and Goals

This class is a beginning course in field studies and will serve as a prerequisite for the advanced course. Topics covered include general ecology, elementary botany, entomology, and field methods. You will have the opportunity to design and carry out an independent project during this class.

## Instructional Activities

Students should expect to spend time exploring the content through hands-on activities (both indoors and outdoors!), through lectures, readings, participating in laboratory experiments, working on group projects, and experiencing the nature of science through their own inquiry.

## Assessment Procedures

Students will be assessed through their classwork, project work, homework, quizzes, and tests.

## Grading Policy

Progress reports will be sent home every 9 weeks. Grades will be given each semester. Grades will be calculated as a straight percentage of your work; letter grades are determined by a standard 90/80/70/60 scale. The option of taking Field Biology Pass/No Pass is available; however, this choice must be made with your instructor's permission within the first three weeks of the quarter. Students who submit completed papers on time will have two weeks after receiving their graded papers to rewrite them for full credit.

## Credit Denial Policy

Attendance and class participation are important parts of learning. Course credit denial is a possibility if students do not attend class. Credit denial in this course may occur when a student has accumulated five (5) unexcused absences and their grade has fallen below a 60%. Students and their parents/guardians will be informed in writing of the possibility of credit denial when a student has accumulated four (4) unexcused absences. Credit denial decisions will not be based on absences due to religious reasons, a student's disability, or an excused absence, as determined by district policy. Students who are failing a class at the time of credit denial will have an "F" entered on their transcript. No credit will be awarded for the course.

Corvallis School District Policy IKAD

## Plagiarism Policy

The Plagiarism Policy for Crescent Valley High School will be followed in this course. Please see the student planner for details of this policy.

### **Drop Policy**

All students are expected to complete the required steps, as described in the CVHS Science Department Drop Policy, before they will be allowed to drop a science class.

### **Tardy Policy**

All students are expected to be in the room and in their seats by the time class starts or they will be marked tardy. Students who accumulate three or more tardies may be given a detention.

### **Attendance Policy**

Absences should be kept to a minimum. It is very difficult to keep up with the content covered in this course without being present for lectures, labs, and class activities. Chronic attendance issues will result in an attendance contract. All absences must be excused through the attendance office by a parent or guardian within 48 hours. After that, your absence is considered unexcused. Make-up work will not be accepted for unexcused absences. Make-up tests will not be administered to students for unexcused absences.

*Excused Absences:* Work that is late due to an excused absence will not be penalized but should be made up immediately upon return. For each day that you are absent, you will get one extra day to turn in your missed work. If you miss a test due to an excused absence, you should plan to take the test within one day of your return. Please schedule the time of make-up tests or labs with the instructor.

### **Late Work Policy**

Work that is turned in within 24 hours after an assignment's due date will be accepted but graded with a 30% deduction. Students will be given no credit for work turned in after this period of time. Students with excused absences will be granted one day for each day absent to submit work. Extensions may be made to this policy when reasonable; please arrange any extensions prior to the due date of the assignment. Tests missed due to an excused absence must be made up within 48 hours of the student's return.

### **Personal Electronics Policy**

Personal electronic devices (i.e. cell phones, mp3 players, gaming devices, etc) may be allowed in the classroom when the instructor considers it to be appropriate. Unless specifically told it is OK to use these devices, students should keep them put away. For students who have devices that are out and/or in use, the Personal Electronics Policy for Crescent Valley High School will be followed in this course. Please see the student planner for details of this policy.

Students are permitted to have their own laptops in class for school work unless it becomes a distraction. Students may obtain from the CVHS science department a copy of the Vernier Technology's Logger Pro 3.4.6 Lab software for use while they are enrolled in this course.

### **Classroom Behavior Expectations**

I expect students in Field Biology to manage their behavior and conduct themselves as adults. Students who disrupt the learning environment will be placed on a behavior contract and/or removed from class. Students who do not act appropriately when conducting field studies will be placed on a behavior contract and given an alternate assignment.

Students will be expected to read, understand, and sign the safety contract before participating in any lab or field activities. Appropriate permission forms, legal forms, safety forms, and behavior contracts must be signed before any on- or off-campus field studies. Please follow all guidelines on the class safety sheet, and teacher instructions. Cheating and plagiarism are prohibited and will result in parent notification and disciplinary action. Students are expected to stay in the classroom during the instructional period. Extended departures can affect your grade in the class. Extended leaves (beyond 10 minutes) will result in an unexcused absence for the block. Students are not allowed to eat or drink in the lab area of F-18 or anywhere near laptops or computers.

### Career Related Learning Standards Addressed in this Course

- ✓ **Personal Management** – Exhibit appropriate work ethic and behaviors in school, community, and/or workplace.
- ✓ **Problem Solving** – Apply decision-making and problem solving techniques in school, community, and/or the workplace.
- ✓ **Communication** – Demonstrate effective communication skills to give and receive information in school, community, and/or workplace.
- ✓ **Teamwork** – Demonstrate effective teamwork in school, community, and/or workplace.
- ✓ **Employment Foundations** – Demonstrate academic, technical, and organizational knowledge and skills required for successful employment.
- ✓

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Please detach this portion of the Course Description, sign and date it, and return it to the instructor.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ (printed neatly)

I have read the Course Description and understand what is expected of me in this course.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I have read the Course Description and understand what is expected of my student in this course.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Phone #

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Parent/Guardian e-mail

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Additional Contact Info

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