

Field Ecology

Dan Bregar

Contact Information

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Course Description

This class is a beginning course in field studies and will serve as a prerequisite for advanced coursework.

Topics covered include general ecology, elementary botany, soil science, and field methods. You will have the opportunity to design and carry out an independent project during this class.

Course Standards

This course is designed to address the following Next Generation Science Standards: HS-LS2-1, HS-LS2-2, HS-LS2-3, HS-LS2-4, HS-LS2-6, HS-LS2-7, HS-LS3-2, HS-LS4-1, HS-LS4-2, HS-LS4-4, HS-LS4-5, HS-ESS2-5, HS-ESS3-1

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.

Assessments *of learning* will be the primary indicator in calculating a student's grade, while assignments that are primarily practice *for learning* will be weighted much lower.

This year, departments will decide the actual percentages of these two categories. Tests are not the only form of an assessment of learning-- labs, speeches, projects, essays, research papers, and critical analysis are other examples of these types of assignments. Depending on the purpose, these assessed tasks may be required to be completed in-class or at home. At the same time, practice for learning might be in-class guided practice, participation, daily homework, or the preliminary parts of larger assignments. The grade for a course will be calculated by combining the two categories to create a final percentage.

Attendance, misbehaviors, and other non-academic factors shall not directly impact student grades, but they will be addressed via school discipline.

In some circumstances, students might want to request a grade of "G" (no grade given) or "I" (incomplete) at the end of a semester. All requests must be approved by me and must be accompanied by a written contract of what additional work a student will do and when that work will be submitted.

In the science department, assessments will count for 80% of a student's grade while practice work will count for the remaining 20%. Grades will be rounded to the nearest whole percentage with no exceptions. Please see my website for additional information regarding homework grades, quizzes, labs, and proficiency demonstrations.

Late assignments (including labs and other classwork) will generally not be accepted past the due date. Exceptions will be made for work due to excused absences and other extenuating circumstances. If you do not turn in your work on the due date, you should complete an "Extension Request Form" – available on my web site – as soon as possible. When you submit your late work, you need to complete a "Late Work Submission Form", also on my website. I will use this information to determine whether or not your score will be entered into the gradebook. If you fail to complete either or both of these forms, you should expect no credit for your late work.

I will allow students to take or complete tests after the assigned date ONLY when it has been pre-arranged before the day of the test or it is necessary due to an excused absence on the day of the test. Students who take or complete tests after the assigned date may be subject to limitations regarding the use of notes and other materials.

Re-Assessment for Standards

All missing work (including assignments recorded with a 0% weight, class notes, and lab preparation) will be required to be completed before additional opportunities to meet standards are offered. This additional work may take the form of test questions, lab activities, or individual presentations.

Your additional work will be used to determine if you have met the course standards. It will not change your grade in the class.

Academic Integrity

Crescent Valley students are expected to:

- Put forth their best effort on tests and assignments
- Demonstrate respect towards their instructors and peers by encouraging and facilitating learning
- Converse with others and assist other students when it is in a manner that is consistent with tests or assignment instructions

Please refer to page 23 in the Student Handbook for further details on Academic Dishonesty and its consequences.

Tardy Policy

Field Ecology will begin promptly each day; please be prepared and ready to learn at the start of each period.

Attendance Policy

I will notify students and parents/guardians when unexcused absences begin affecting a student's participation or performance in a class. The administrator may initiate necessary conferences, contracts, as well as other appropriate interventions and consequences.

Personal Electronics Policy

The Personal Electronics Policy for Crescent Valley High School will be followed in this course. Please see the student handbook/planner for details of this policy. In general, personal electronics will not be allowed in Field Ecology.

Classroom Behavior Expectations

I expect all students to help me maintain a positive, supportive learning environment. Please be respectful to yourselves and to others.

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.

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

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parents, please include your phone number and e-mail below.