**Arcola High School**

**Department of Agricultural Education**

**7th Orientation Course**

**2011-2012**

**Teacher: Mrs. Vander Kuur**

**Office hours: M-F 7:30-8:15 & 3:00-3:30**

**E-mail:** **lvanderkuur@arcolaschools.com**

**Website:** [**http://mrsvanderkuur.weebly.com/**](http://mrsvanderkuur.weebly.com/)

**Course Description**: This course will develop students’ understanding of the agricultural industry relating to the United States. Instructional units include: FFA opportunities and responsibilities, soil science, plant science, animal science, environmental science and working within the construction/mechanics shop. While participation in FFA activities is not mandatory, it is encouraged for students to become involved with FFA early to gain full potential of High School Agricultural courses in the future. FFA is an integral course component for leadership development, career exploration and reinforcement of academic concepts. All students who complete this nine week course will be eligible to receive the “Discovery Degree” at the FFA Banquet held in the spring. (Dues must be paid to receive pin.)

**Course Objectives:**

* Relate in class assignments to real life opportunities outside of class.
* Apply listening skills in practical settings while working in groups and when delivering presentations to their peers.
* Select and use appropriate shop tools to create and build projects.
* Explain the importance of agriculture though classroom experiences.
* Explain the reasons why FFA is an integral part of Agricultural Education and understand the FFA Creed, Pledge and Motto.

**Course Materials:**

* Necessary writing utensils
* Lined paper

**Standards for Written Work:** I firmly believe that all students should turn in work that has been read thoroughly by not only by themselves, but also checked in spell check. While this course is an “agriculture” course, it is imperative that you, the student, work on perfecting your writing for future professional needs. Also, I will ***NOT*** grade any written work that has been plagiarized. These written assignments will be given an immediate zero and it will be reported to the principal.

**Due Dates for Assignments:** Due dates will be written on the “homework” board and will remain there until the due date has passed. It is your responsibility to keep track of due dates within a date book, assignment notebook, etc.

**Late Work:** Late work will not be accepted unless permission has been given by the teacher or you have an excused absence the day the assignment is due. If you have an excused absence on the day that an assignment is given, please look for your missed work on the bulletin board just outside the classroom door. It is your responsibility to check this board and complete assignments by the due date.

**Classroom Expectations:**

* **RESPECT: I will treat you with respect and I expect you to treat me in the same manner.**
* **RESPONSIBILITY: It is your responsibility to be aware of any due dates, changes, upcoming events and anything else discussed in class. Anything covered during this course is fair game to be included on a test. If you have questions or comments about the content, it is your responsibility to contact me prior to the test for clarification.**
* **READY: Come prepared to class. This means, you are not only expected to bring all class materials, but also your attention.**

**Participation:** Students are expected to engage in classroom activities and discussions. This course will be full of hands-on experiences in which can be tied to real-life circumstances.

**Exceptions:** I understand that family and school activities can interfere with school work and class attendance. If you ever need to talk to me about an assignment, course content or anything not mentioned, please do not hesitate to talk to me before or after school/class. We will then talk to come to a conclusion that will meet both of our needs.

**Schedule (subject to change):**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Week** | **Topics Covered** |
| **Week 1** | Introductions/FFA |
| **Week 2** | FFA: Opportunities, CDE, Officer Positions |
| **Week 3** | FFA: Mock Election, Mock Meetings, Memorize Pledge |
| **Week 4** | Soil Science: Soil Particles, Soil Triangle, Dirt Cups, Soil Lab |
| **Week 5** | Plant Science: Plant Parts, Edible Plant Lab |
| **Week 6** | Horticulture: Floral Design, Landscape Design, Ornamental Crops, Vegetable Crops |
| **Week 7** | Animal Science: Classification, Breeds, Feed and Care, Emergency Situations |
| **Week 8** | Environmental Science: Water Resources, Renewable Energy, Terrariums |
| **Week 9** | Carpentry/Mechanics: Shop Safety, Shop Tools, Project |