

Introduction to Zoology Course Syllabus

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to introduce students to the major taxa of the animal kingdom and provides an introduction to animal anatomy, physiology, ecology and evolution.

COURSE MATERIAL

*This course **MAY** include the following, but there is no guarantee that we will cover each portion by the completion of the semester. Possible topics are as follows:

1. Organizing Life's Diversity
2. Bacteria/Viruses/Protists
3. Sponges & Cnidarians
4. Worms & Mollusks
5. Arthropods
6. Fish

MATERIALS NEEDED

Each student will be expected to provide an area for all papers in a binder or a folder. It will be used for storing notes, handouts, and other important information. Keeping all papers will aid in grading should an error occur. Students are responsible for their own papers! Also, students will periodically work in situations where they may do harm to their clothing. If this is a concern, students can bring an extra pair of clothes, coveralls, etc.

REQUIREMENTS

The only requirement for participation in this course is a great attitude and a willingness to try new things. The course will take you into situations that can be potentially harmful. Students will be expected to adhere to all school rules as well as specific class expectations at all times. **Due to the nature of this course and REQUIRED DISSECTIONS, students will be expected to adhere to all safety expectations as outlined by the instructor.**

ATTENDANCE POLICY

A large portion of this class is graded using participation scoring guides. As an instructor, I use many assignments and tests but evaluate you on how much students demonstrate they have learned through project work and other forms of demonstration. This makes attendance very important and students who are expecting to be gone for large portions of this class should see the instructor before leaving. In the event that a student accumulates 10 unexcused absences, they may be denied partial credit. Should a student accumulate 15 or more unexcused absences, they may be denied credit for the course.

EVALUATION CRITERIA AND GRADING SCALE

This course will be graded as **100% assessment**. Practice will be available for students and required for retaking assessments. Practice for assessments may include, but is not limited to: classroom assignments, homework, spot checks, warm-ups, exit writes, citizenship. Assessments may include, but are not limited to: summative assessments (tests and quizzes), projects, presentations, speeches, writing samples, science inquiry labs, and state samples. In addition, a student's citizenship and team member certification will be noted as a quantifiable score at marking periods, weighted at 0%. **Assignments will expire two months from the specified due date and will NOT be graded during the school year. For example, if a student doesn't complete a quiz by two months after the date it was originally given, it will not be graded until summer. The missing grade for the assignment will continue to be calculated in the overall grade as incomplete.**

Below is the grading rubric used by all classes taught at Central Linn High School for assessments:

Z= Assessment was not submitted

0= incomplete, not enough evidence to assess

1= does not yet meet standard/learning target
2= nearly meets standard/learning target
3= meets standard/learning target
4= exceeds standard/learning target
In this system, there is no “extra credit”.

In order to display proficiency on a standard or learning target, a student must attain a **70%** or better on the assigned assessment, which is equivalent to a traditional ‘C’ grade. The traditional ‘D’ grades will no longer be awarded to student work. If an assessment is below a 70% score, the student will have the opportunity to retake the assessment and get additional support from the classroom teacher or building support services. If all, or most standards are not met with passing scores within a grading period, a student may earn an ‘F’. However, if a student is making adequate progress toward proficiency and utilizing available resources, students may be assigned an ‘incomplete’, as decided by the teacher, and will have 8 school days to demonstrate proficiency on missing or incomplete assessments at the end of the grading period.

PINNACLE INTERNET VIEWER

The Pinnacle parent portal allows you to monitor student grades, attendance, and any assignment information. **PIV** offers an email notification option which gives you the flexibility to choose which reports or notifications you would like to receive concerning your student's grades. You can also specify how often you would like to receive the notifications. Or you could choose the option to receive an email notification when any grade goes above or below a set value that you determine. To sign up for **PIV**, contact the school. At Central Linn High School contact Lauri Archer (e-mail lauri.archer@centrallinn.k12.or.us). As soon as you receive your login and password, you may access the **PIV** web page and acquaint yourself with the available features. You may also set up your email notifications.

CLASS FEES/TRIPS

Some parts of this class will take place outside as well as in the classroom, and it involves physical activity. Be prepared for all sorts of conditions and be sure to dress appropriately. Please inform the instructor of any accommodations that may need to be made. Field/Lab Trips may be necessary and forms to leave school grounds will follow. *Students will be expected to pay a \$20 lab fee to cover the cost of lab and safety materials for this course. Payments to be taken directly to the front office within the first two weeks of the semester.*

CELL PHONE USE: Students are not permitted to have any personal type of electronic device (including cell phones) during class time. Students will check their phone into the teacher before class begins and will not be able to respond to texts or calls during class. Any violation of a teacher’s classroom or school rule regarding the use of electronic devices will result in an office referral and may result in the loss of the privilege of having the device on school grounds.

Please help your student be successful with these expectations by refraining from calling or texting them during class times. If there is an emergency where you must reach your student, please call the front office and a message will be relayed.

COMPUTER RULES: Students are permitted to use the school computers only to conduct school business, or only for instructional needs, or to conduct research related to education consistent with the district’s mission or goals. Personal use of district computers including E-mail is strictly prohibited. Students who violate computer rules policy may be subject to discipline. Students who damage computers will be subject to paying restitution to replace or repair the computer. This includes any technology which is assigned to the student by the school.

CLASSROOM SPECIMENS:

As part of the learning environment, there will be a pet bearded dragon in the classroom. Students will not be required to handle the animal, but will have the option to. Any injury to the student will be of their own accord and will not hold Central Linn or the staff responsible for any issues as a result of the classroom specimen.

**All information (grade scale, material covered, attendance grading etc.) within this document is subject to change at teacher's discretion.*

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date

By signing above, I acknowledge and understand the expectations set forth and agree to comply to the best of my ability. I also acknowledge that I have read the above information including the portion on classroom specimens. If I have any specific concerns I agree to contact the instructor.

In an effort to increase communication between Central Linn High School and families, please be sure to provide a *functional* email address to the office as that is the preferred method of communication.