



## Agriculture Biology 2024-2025

### Teacher Contact Information

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School Site: Nevada Union High School  
Contact Information:  
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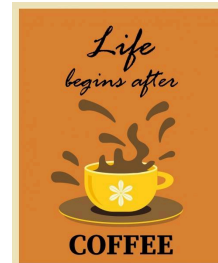
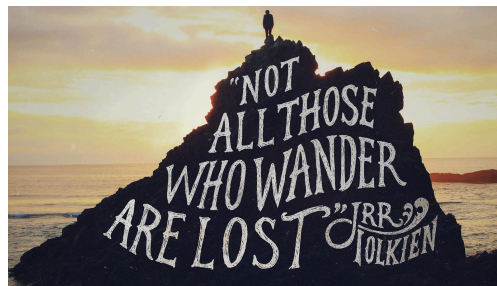
#### About Me:

My name is Ms. Smith and I am so excited to have the chance to explore the art of floral design with you this year. This is my 12th year teaching and my 11th year teaching in the Agriculture Department at Nevada Union HS. I grew up in Nevada County and graduated from Nevada Union in 2006. After high school, I pursued my higher education at Cal Poly, San Luis



Obispo. Being able to teach at my Alma Mater has been such an exciting experience and I have a great deal pride for our

school and the Miner Magic that comes along with it. I have a passion for agriculture and FFA and love to share my passion with my students. For fun, I enjoy traveling, hiking, paddleboarding, working out, camping, spending time with my friends and family, walking my dog Eleanor, watching TV shows, reading and drinking coffee.



## Course Description

Agriculture Biology is a one year, laboratory science course, designed for the college-bound student with career interests in agriculture. This course emphasizes the life functions and interrelationships of plants and animals, focusing on growth and reproduction, genetics, animal behavior, animal and plant taxonomy, nutrition, health and disease and the ecological relationships among plants, animals and humans. Students will be involved in “hands-on” agriculture activities and projects. Participation in FFA activities is an integral part of this course.

## Essential Learning Outcomes (ELOs)

-By the end of the instructional year, students will understand the following core biological concepts:

- The structure and function of organisms at a cellular level
- How organisms grow and develop
- The organization for matter and the energy flow in an organism
- Interdependent relationships in an ecosystem
- Energy transfer in an ecosystem
- Ecosystem functioning, dynamics and resilience
- Biodiversity in an ecosystem
- Inheritance of traits
- Variation in traits
- Evolutionary concepts of Natural Selection and adaption
- Claim-evidence-reasoning (CER's)

-Students will learn how to maintain a safe and healthful working environment.

-Students will manage, and actively engage in, a career-related, supervised agricultural experience.

-Students will understand the importance of maintaining and completing the California Agricultural Record Book.

## Participation Expectations

Students are expected to:

- Respect the rights of others to learn and the instructor's right to teach.
- Bring a charged Chromebook and your composition notebook as well as a writing tool to class each day.
- To participate in all assignments, activities and discussions with a positive attitude.
- Use all equipment safely, correctly, and as directed.
- If you are absent from a class period, it is your responsibility to get any missing work from the instructor
- Keep a neat & up-to-date composition notebook
- Check Schoology daily for updates related to FFA, course assignments, upcoming due dates, grades, etc.
- Participate in 3 FFA activities per semester
- Complete a minimum of 1 hour of community service per semester

## Grading Policy

<i>Category</i>	<i>Percentage of Overall Grade</i>
Assignments/Composition Notebook	40%
Labs & Projects	20%
Test & Quizzes	20%
Semester Final	10%
FFA Activities	10%

### Category Descriptions:

**Assignments/Composition Notebook-** This is the bulk of your grade for this class due to the importance of completing daily assignments that will cement the understanding of the core biological concepts we will cover this year. This portion of your grade will include all in class assignments. Your composition notebook will be turned in on a regular basis (approximately every two weeks).

**Labs & Projects-** Throughout the year we will do a great deal of hands-on projects & labs in this course. Clear lab write-up expectations and project rubrics will be provided to help guide your success on this portion of your grade.

**Tests & Quizzes-** This category includes formative and summative assessments such as quizzes, tests, and skill based assessments.

**Semester Final-** This portion of your grade will be based on your semester 1 and semester 2 final assignment. This could range from a summative assessment to a project based assignment or a combination of both.

**FFA Activities-** The FFA is an integral part of every agricultural class. FFA participation will count for 10% of your class grade. There is a requirement of 3 FFA activities and a minimum of one hour of community service per semester. Activities will include events such as monthly FFA meetings/activities, participating in fundraisers, community service opportunities and leadership development events. An SAE project and all related record keeping will be required during both semesters of all agriculture courses.

## Student Absences

Schoology and your composition notebook will be the two most important resources you will have for this course. On Schoology you will find your up-to-date gradebook, weekly folders with an agenda for the week, a list of upcoming assignments, FFA updates and any resources you may need such as a link to a video/online article/assignment/etc.

It is your responsibility to complete any and all work that was assigned during your absence by the listed due date that can be found on Schoology. Many assignments can be completed at home if you are absent to allow for you to not fall behind in this course. Be sure to check Schoology often, especially when you are absent from class.

## Late Work Policy

Late work will not receive full credit for this course. Any assignment turned in after the due date will lose 10% credit for each day the assignment is late up to 5 days at which time the assignment will only be worth 50% credit moving forward. This applies to online assignments, labs, projects and composition notebook turn-in dates.  
\*\*\*For example, an assignment turned in two days late can earn up to 80% credit, while an assignment turned in 8 days late, could only earn 50% credit.

## Other Classroom Policies

### **Tardy:**

If you arrive to my classroom after the bell signifying the start of class has rung, you will be marked tardy. Please refer to your student handbook for more information on tardy violation repercussions.

### **Bathroom:**

\*Only one student may leave the class at a time to use the restroom.

\*At the start of each quarter, 3 bathroom passes will be assigned to each student in my class. These passes can be used throughout each quarter when needed to request for a Minga restroom pass to be made. Once permission is given, students will create a virtual pass via the Minga online system and then go to the restroom. Students will have 7 minutes to return to class before the pass expires. Each pass is worth 5 points of extra credit if not used.

### **Cell Phones:**

\*The Nevada Union HS cell phone policy will be followed and enforced in my classroom. When you arrive to class, you will be expected to place your phone in the assigned "cubby" where it will remain for the rest of the class period. Any class related assignments that require the use of the internet, will take place via your student Chromebook. Be sure to have a charged Chromebook with you at all times as access to the internet via your phone will not be an option.