

# Field Ecology (2018-2019)

Mr. Dan Kurkiewicz

Grades: 10-12

Credits: 0.5 credit

Length: 1 Trimester

## **Course Description:**

This course is designed to give students an introduction to basic concepts in Field Ecology. Students will be expected to have a background in biology, chemistry and scientific process. This class will have good deal of field work, out of the classroom.

**Student participation is required.** Students will be expected to push themselves academically and challenge themselves to experience this unique science first hand (expect to get dirty).

**Daily Materials:** Students should come prepared for class every day with:

School Planner

Class Notebook / Loose Leaf Paper in Binder

Field Journal (bound notebook other than your class notebook)

Black/Blue Pen (preferred) or Pencil

**Weather Appropriate clothing on Field Study Days**

Students cannot expect to excel in this class without coming to class prepared with the materials listed above. Student not dressed appropriately for Field Study days will not receive credit for those activities.

**Field Experience:** Students will be spending at least one day per week outside performing field observations and experiments. **Students are expected to come prepared for any weather condition** (except in the event of lightning) and should dress appropriately. Failure to be prepared or participate in the field experience will result in loss of credit for the day. Students may store extra clothing for Field Study days in the classroom.

**Texts:** The following will be read in whole or part. Other shorter readings from other assigned materials may also be selected.

*On The Origin of Species* by Charles Darwin

*A Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold

*Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson

*Minnesota's Natural Heritage: An Ecological Perspective* by John Tester

**Video List:** Students may be viewing all or parts of the following titles:

Blue Planet

Planet Earth

Life in the Undergrowth

Minnesota: A History of the Land

Nature's Most Amazing Events

Other various biology related educational videos

**Tentative Schedule\*:**

Topic

**Introduction to Field Ecology**

**Geologic Past, Ecological Succession**

**Ecological Interactions**

**Biomes of Minnesota**

**Population Dynamics**

**Wildlife Management**

**Minnesota's Changing Landscape**

**The Future of the Land**

\*This schedule may be modified as deemed necessary by the instructor. Students will be notified of any significant changes of the schedule.

**Grading:**

Grades for various assignments or assessments will not be weighted differently. You can expect larger projects or exams to be worth more than daily assignments.

Grading Scale:

A 100% – 90%

B 89.9% - 80%

C 79.9% - 70%

D 69.9% - 60%

F <60%

**Absences:** It is the responsibility of the student to see the instructor for any missed work. Students will be allowed two school days make-up time for each day of excused absence with the exception of long- term assignments of 10 or more school days. Long-term assignments will be due the day the student returns to school. These times may be extended at the discretion of the teacher. **No credit will be given for work missed due to an unexcused absence.** Any makeup labs or exams must be done before or after school.

**Late Assignment Policy:** Late work will be accepted with 10% deducted from the total points possible for each day the assignment is late. Any homework not received within 4 days of the due date will receive a maximum grade of 50% of the total possible points.

**Tardy Policy:** Students will be marked tardy if they are not in the classroom when the bell begins to ring. Students who have been tardy three times will be given detention to be served with Mr. Lane within one week of the third offense.

**Safety:** Students must follow lab safety procedures and guidelines at all times. Students must complete a lab safety document in order to participate in laboratory and field exercises. Failure to complete the safety document will result in exclusion from lab and field exercises. Failure to comply with laboratory safety requirements may result in zero credit for the exercise or disciplinary action.

**Have Fun!** Students will be required to smile and or possibly laugh at some point during the course, if not daily. Failure to do so will result in grumpy students and teachers.

**Food and Drink Policy:** No food or drink, with the exception of water in a clear bottle will be allowed in the classroom. If a student violates this policy they will become eligible for classroom cleanliness duties before or after school.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Any action the instructor deems academically dishonest will result in a zero for that assignment. This may include, but is not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, use of “crib sheets” and copying. I want to know what YOU know or do not know. **Do not cheat yourself by being academically dishonest!!**

Field Ecology Syllabus Signature Page

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_