

# Atwater High School Agriculture Department – Class/Course Policies

Mr. Gossman

## Ag Dept. / Classroom Rules

1. The Agriculture Department will strictly adhere to Atwater High School's Student Responsibilities – Rules and Attendance policies. They are written and available for review on the school/district website.
2. Class begins when the bell rings. Students are expected to BE ON TIME, BE SEATED, BE PREPARED, and BE ATTENTIVE. Students will be considered tardy if they are not in their proper seat when the bell rings.
3. Students are expected to BE RESPECTFUL and treat their class, classmates, and classroom environment with respect. Disrespectful and/or rude behavior and/or language will not be tolerated.
4. Students are expected to BE RESPONSIBLE and ACCOUNTABLE for their actions and behavior. Students will be held accountable for their behavior and actions during class and towards their classmates and the learning environment.

## Class/Classroom Policy Highlights

- a. Cell phones and/or ear phones are not to be used, heard, and/or seen during class time unless authorized/approved by the teacher. **If you need to use/check your cell phone, ask for permission from the teacher. If you do not ask prior to using it, it will be confiscated and sent to school administration. Phones can be checked/used the last 2 minutes of class ONLY.**
- b. When Chromebooks (or computer) are used in class for a specific purpose, students must be on the correct assignment. A student using any feature of the Chromebook in a way that the teacher deems a distraction to the student, the class, or in manner not associated with the lesson/assignment, may lose the use of the Chromebook /computer or have it "locked".
- c. ONLY school/district approved hats may be worn in class. Any unauthorized hat/clothing will be confiscated or reported. No "hoodies" or unauthorized covering of face, head, ears, etc... is allowed inside the classroom
- d. Students are expected to return all materials, tools, and supplies to their proper place before leaving the classroom or lab.
- e. Prior to the bell ringing and/or being dismissed, all tables/desks and chairs must be straightened / organized prior to prior to being dismissed from class. All students are to be seated in their chairs prior to the bell ringing for class dismissal.
- f. No one will be allowed to use the restroom during class time without permission from the teacher/instructor.
- g. Eating is not allowed in any Ag classroom/building during class time. Bottled water, milk, or juice is permissible as long as it does not disrupt class and students throw away contents when done. Gum is "ok" as long as it is not a distraction and thrown in a trashcan when done. Gum discarded on seats/tables will require that student to clean all tables/chairs.
- h. Assignments have strict deadlines. All assignments are designated through Canvas (online) that is provided at the start of each week (Monday). All weekly work is due at the end of the week (Friday). Non completed work/assignments will result in a "0" score. No exceptions. Situations regarding not meeting a deadline MUST BE COMMUNICATED with teacher BEFORE deadline.
- i. **Students have 24hr access to class/lab assignments through Canvas. All of the week's class work/assignments are provided at the start of the school week and due at the end of the school week. Deadlines are FIRM. No late work is accepted. Special situations/reasons for not meeting deadlines must be approved through student/teacher communication (e-mail) BEFORE the/a deadline(s). Students have 1 week to make-up "in person" tests/quizzes. There is no assigned homework.**
- j. Students who cheat/plagiarize (including copy/pasting) will receive a "0" score, school documentation, and communication(s) to parent/guardian. Both the provider of work and the person who received the work will be held accountable.

## Behavior Expectations and Consequences

The objective and policy of the Agriculture Department is to create a safe, positive and productive learning environment for each student and the class. Any behavior and/or action that does not meet this objective will result in immediate attention and action.

Consequences for inappropriate behavior include (but not limited to) a verbal warning, removal from class, referral, Agriculture Department work duty/assignment, parent contact and/or AHS administration action.

The signatures below acknowledge receipt of information and understanding of the department, class, and course parameters.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Period: (circle) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

**Atwater High School Agriculture Department**  
**Class/Course Grading Policies**

Mr. Gossman

The primary goal of the Atwater High School Agriculture Department is to provide each student with an opportunity for the best possible education in keeping with the student's interest and abilities. This opportunity is available so long as the student benefits and does not interfere with other student's rights to receive an education. The Atwater High School Agriculture Department recognizes that individual differences exist among students. The Agriculture program is planned to develop a strong educational foundation, career and educational development skills, personal growth, worthy attitudes, and interest of all students enrolled.

The following grading system has been developed in order to be fair and equitable when assigning grades to students and is consistent with the philosophy and policies of the Merced Union High School District.

- I. **Class Participation / Behavior**: Participation and classroom behavior will account for 10% of the total grade earned during the grading period. 5 points are eligible each day for participation (coming to class on time, prepared, etc..) and behavior. Points are entered into the grade book (Aeries) at the end of each week. These points CANNOT be made up.
- II. **Grading**: Grades are based on a percentage (90-100 = A, 80-89 = B, 70-79 = C, 60-69 = D, 0-59 = F)

**Ag Earth Science**

10%	Class Participation / Behavior
10%	FFA Participation *
10%	AET Record Keeping / SAE's
25%	Tests / Quizzes
45%	Classroom Assignments / Activities
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100%	Total

**Horticulture / Turfgrass & Sports Field Mngmt**

10%	Class Participation / Behavior
10%	FFA Participation *
10%	AET Record Keeping / SAE's
10%	Tests / Quizzes
30%	Horticulture / Turf / Field Labs
30%	Classroom Assignments / Activities
<hr/>	
100%	Total

III. **Class / Course Materials Needed:**

☐ **Chromebook**      ☐ **Pen / pencil**      ☐ **Earphones**

- (\*) **"FFA Participation"** – All of the Atwater High School agriculture courses fall under the California State Agriculture Curriculum. The courses/curriculum include an "intra-curricular" format engaging classroom, SAE (Supervised Agriculture Experience), FFA instruction/involvement, and agriculture related engagement / involvement outside the classroom. 10% of a student's grades in all the agriculture courses are designed to encourage activity/involvement beyond the classroom. 3 FFA activities each quarter makes up the 10% portion of a student's grade in their agriculture course(s). Activities include official school, local, and state sponsored FFA activities, meetings, school projects, and community services. Our staff is always willing to work with any student in fulfilling this requirement. Our staff ensures there are numerous opportunities available for students to achieve this goal. Any additional activities (beyond the 3 required) go towards overall class "extra-credit", so it also serves as an opportunity to strengthen a grade. The overall objective within our program is to provide our students the opportunities of premier leadership, personal growth, skill development, and career success through agriculture education, and the "FFA / SAE Participation" aspect of our courses/grading contributes towards that goal. (CA Ed Code 52454)