

## Integrated Science

### **Belinda Trickey**

This class fills the state requirement for a third lab based science credit for graduation. This means that in order to graduate you must pass this course unless you have already passed three regents courses. If you have three regents' credits then you are taking this as an elective and have chosen to do the work required to pass. All of you are intelligent people capable of doing the work. I will respect you as such. In addition I will make every effort to treat each of you fairly and equally. This class will use team strategies to reach goals. My role is to provide support, direction, resources, team building skills, and monitor and evaluate progress. **I am NOT here to spoon feed you!!**

**Introduction:** . The goal of this course is to improve your ability to apply skills such as article assessment and problem solving that are the underpinnings of science.

Integrated science approaches science from a different angle. The goal of this course is for you to use the science information and skill you have and apply them to semi-real situations. In doing this we will be integrating all of the sciences into a more complete picture. The science specialties rarely, if ever, work in isolation in the real world. We will be working in different topic areas such as forensics using methods of scientific investigation to analyze data and solve problems. Much of the work we will be doing will be in teams and consist of on going investigations rather than isolated labs. The majority of the work can be completed in class as long as you spend your class time wisely.

### **CLASSROOM RESPONSIBILITIES**

1] I expect students to be in their seats ready to go at the beginning of class. At the start of class we will spend a few minutes to check where we are in a unit and where we are headed. Any announcements will be taken care of then.

2] Class rules are simple. [A] I expect you to respect the people and property around you. [ B] No foul language ( I define what is foul. Period.). After the first warning you will get detention unless it is totally out of bounds. [C] Unexcused tardies will result in detention. [D] If it is not yours leave it alone. [E] Lab safety guidelines must be followed. Failure to do so will result in your removal from the lab. Time lost will be made up after 2:30 at MY convenience. Repeated or serious disregard for safety guidelines will require further disciplinary action which may include removal from the course.

3] I am available for extra help for any student who wants it. It is YOUR responsibility to see me to set up a time for this. I am generally available from 2:30 - 3:30. Work periods / honor studies and frees are available as well.

4] You need to bring to class all materials you will need for that day. One day a cycle will be used for article discussions. You need to bring the article and your notes to class.

5] I will provide you with a three ring binder for your portfolio. You need to get a folder or binder for your daily work and for the final project. You will also need to get a composition book. All formal reports must be word processed. Other work turned in must be in blue or black ink.

6] I expect you to be in class. As this is a team base course, your absence affects a number of people. Any work you miss must be made up. In most cases this means with me outside of class time. Work assigned before your absence is due the day you return. All other work is due within one week. If you miss a significant portion of a module you will be removed from the team and will have to redo the module on your own.

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### EVALUATION METHODS

- Most of the evaluations for this course are based on products rather than question and answer format tests.
- Grading is done on a point system. Your score is record as number of points earned/ points possible.
- Quarter grades will be comprised of the following assessments:
  - Portfolio - 35% (includes: journal, portfolio evaluation, formal critiques)
  - Labs/modules - 30%
  - Performance assessments - 15% (based on: tests, quizzes, your contribution to group work)
  - Project component - 15%
  - Round table article discussions - 5%
- **Final evaluation** - The final draft of your final project takes the place of a final exam. You will design and carry out a significant experiment. One component will be due each quarter with the final draft due at about thirty-five weeks. (Exact due date will be set by the start of 4th quarter.)

**ALL** labs, modules, and investigations and project components must be satisfactorily completed in order for the final project to be accepted for a grade. Students who fall significantly behind in this work may be dropped from the course. Further, as this course is based on a team approach, students who are unwilling to work cooperatively, and the situation cannot be resolved, may be dropped.

Student signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

In signing this sheet the student takes responsibility for reviewing it with their caregiver.

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### Grade break down

Every year there are students who try and figure out what they can skip doing and then are horrified when they get a lousy grade. If I assign something I will grade it. If you don't do it, it will hurt your grade. Because students are used to traditional classes where you complete a unit and take a test, they often are somewhat baffled by where the grade comes from in a class that has very few tests. Below is a chart which hopefully will clarify this.

<b>Quarter Average</b>				
Portfolio 30%	Labs/modules 30%	Performance asses. 15%	Project component 20%	Round tables 5%
Journal (20 pts. 5 wks) (160 pts. at 10 wks)	evaluation of group and individual product(s) Number of points varies with project	Classroom work ethic (50 pts. each 5 weeks)	One portion of the project will be turned in each quarter for a quarter grade (100 pts.) At five weeks certain components will be due and assessed on a 30 pt scale.	6-8 RT presentations per quarter (10 pts each)
Portfolio organization & completeness (10 pts. At 5 wks) (80pts. At 10 wks)	Please Note: individual points received for group products is adjusted based on each student's input	Quizzes (varies)	Q1: Topic, outline of experimental design, introduction, 3 supporting articles, work cited page  Q2: All of procedures will be written  Q3: Experimentation & collection of data  Q4: 1 <sup>st</sup> 5 weeks; graphs with captions & conclusion	Points may be subtracted for negative behavior
Formal critiques (100 pts. each X 4) May do 1 bonus each 5 weeks		Tests (varies)		summary (4 pts each)
Round table work sheets (10 pts each X 8) May do 2 bonus each 5 weeks				critique (4 pts each)
Please Note: I will only accept bonus work for students who have turned in all assignments.				work sheet (2 pts each)