

Plant & Soil Science/ Advanced Plant & Soil Science

Instructor: Ms. Phyllis Sams, LVT

Email: psams@weimarisd.org

Remind Code: @plantsoila

Tutorial Times: Before or after school by appointment

Supplies: The following supplies should be with the student each day in class. Having these items along with any assigned work, will ensure that the student is prepared to participate in class. The student should have these items in class no later than **Monday, August 18, 2025.**

- Writing Utensils – NO RED INK
- 2" Binder
- Notebook Paper
- 1 Package Dividers

Class Description:

Plant & Soil Science/ Advanced Plant and Soil Science provides a way of learning about the natural world. In this course, students learn how plant and soil science has influenced a vast body of knowledge, that there are still applications to be discovered, and that plant and soil science is the basis for many other fields of science. To prepare for careers in plant and soil science, students must attain academic knowledge and skills, acquire technical knowledge and skills related to plant and soil science and the workplace, and develop knowledge and skills regarding career opportunities, entry requirements, and industry expectations. To prepare for success, students need opportunities to learn, reinforce, apply, and transfer their knowledge and skills and technologies in a variety of settings.

Grading System:

Grades will include participation, notebook checks, quizzes, exams, and projects as assigned.

45% Daily Grades (Bell Work, Notebook Checks, Group Participation, Quizzes, etc.) – at least 6 per 6 weeks

55% Major/Test Grades (Exams & Projects) – at least 3 per 6 weeks

Make-Up Work, Late Work & Retesting Policy:

It is the student's responsibility to collect & complete any work that was missed during an absence. I will have a folder with all make up work in it, but the student must pick up the work/assignment. If you are planning on being absent (sports, organization, field trip, etc.) the work must be picked up before you leave for the trip, and is due upon your arrival the next class day.

Late work will be accepted, but 10 points per day will be taken off after the assignment date it was due.

Retesting will be allowed, if the student received a failing grade on a major grade. The student must come to tutorials (by appointment) one day to correct the failed work, the student must complete a reflection on why the assignment was failed and get it signed by a parent/ guardian, and, finally, come to tutorials on a consecutive day to retake the failed work.

Grading Consequences: Academic dishonesty, including cheating or copying the work of another student, plagiarism (including the unauthorized use of artificial intelligence (AI) such as ChatGPT), and unauthorized communication between students during an examination will result in disciplinary action where the student will be written up and must follow the retake policy to make up the assignment.

CLASSROOM RULES:

Respect:

- ✓ Yourself
- ✓ Your Neighbors
- ✓ Your Classroom & Surroundings
- ✓ Your Teachers & Administration

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES/ EXPECTATIONS:

The student will:

1. Have electronic devices turned into their assigned pocket when the bell rings.
2. Be in your seat with all class materials when the bell rings.
3. Begin bell work upon arrival into classroom.
4. Use appropriate language – written and spoken.
5. Be on task.
6. Follow all rules established in the “Student Code of Conduct”.
7. The teacher will dismiss the class, not the bell.

Student Affiliation Leadership Organization:

As part of enrolling in this class, your child has the opportunity to become a member of Weimar FFA. The FFA is the LARGEST student-led leadership organization focused on premier leadership, career success and personal growth. Throughout the year we will participate in leadership activities, career development events, and community service projects. I strongly encourage each student to become a member of Weimar FFA.

Tentative Content Schedule

1st 6 Weeks

- Introductions/ Class Expectations
- Blue & Gold Basics: FFA
- Lab Safety Procedures: Plant & Soil Science
- Conducting Lab & Field Investigations: Plant & Soil Science
- Tools & Equipment in Plant & Soil Science
- Anatomy of Plants

2nd 6 Weeks

- Fundamental Plant Processes
- Plant Nutrition
- Plant Evaluation

3rd 6 Weeks

- Plant Spacing Trials
- Plant Genetics
- Environmental Resources: Native Plants
- Hydroponics
- Pesticides & Herbicides: An Introduction

4th 6 Weeks

- Pesticides & Herbicides: An Introduction
- Crop Production in the United States: Southern Region
- Water Resources
- Water Measurement

5th 6 Weeks

- Introduction to Irrigation
- Plant Pests: Chewing Insects
- Plant Pests: Sucking Insects
- Plant Pests: Vertebrates
- Plant Pests: Weeds

6th 6 Weeks

- Plant Pests: Weeds
- Plant Pests: Viruses
- Plant Biotechnology

August 1, 2025

Dear Parent of Guardian;

I am looking forward to having your student in my Plant & Soil class this year. In order to guarantee your child, as well as the other students in my classroom, the excellent learning climate they deserve, I am sharing with you our classroom and lab procedures, my tutorial schedules and information on how to best reach me. Due dates will always be specified when work is assigned. Your student will know well in advance when a project is due. If your child knows that he/she will be absent on the due date, it is his/her responsibility to hand in the assignment before the due date. Almost all of our work is done in class because it is a hands-on course.

Below I have provided signature lines and a contact information section. I am requesting that each of you sign below to acknowledge that you and your student understand the policies of this course, and give me a way to best contact you. Please keep the first 3 pages for yourself, and return this page with your student by **Monday, August 18, 2025.**

Once again, I am very excited to embark on the 2025-2026 school year with such wonderful students!

Thank you,

Phyllis Sams, LVT

Student Name (print)

Parent/Guardian Name (print)

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Parent/Guardian Email: _____

Parent/Guardian Cell Phone Number: _____

Best way to reach you? (Circle One) Email Cell Phone