

**NEOSHO COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
MASTER COURSE SYLLABUS**

**COURSE IDENTIFICATION**

Course Code/Number: BIOL 106

Course Title: Topics in Kansas Nature Studies

Division:  Applied Science (AS)  Liberal Arts (LA)  Workforce Development (WD)  
 Health Care (HC)  Lifetime Learning (LL)  Nursing  Developmental

Credit Hour(s): Two (2)

Effective Date: Fall 2013

Assessment Goal Per Outcome: 70%

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This repeatable seminar is a course designed to explore several topics relating to the natural world of Kansas. These seminars will involve both course work and field trips. Specific topics will include plant life in Kansas, insect life in Kansas, bird and animal life in Kansas, as well as others. Once the subject is chosen a statement of the course objectives/outcomes will be attached to this general syllabus.

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS/PREREQUISITES AND/OR COREQUISITES**

None

**TEXTS**

The official list of textbooks and materials for this course is found on *myNeosho*.

<http://www.neosho.edu/ProspectiveStudents/Registration/CourseSyllabi.aspx>

**GENERAL EDUCATION OUTCOMES**

1. Practice Responsible Citizenship through:
  - identifying rights and responsibilities of citizenship,
  - identifying how human values and perceptions affect and are affected by social diversity,

- identifying and interpreting artistic expression.
2. Live a healthy lifestyle (physical, intellectual, social) through:
    - listing factors associated with a healthy lifestyle and lifetime fitness,
    - identifying the importance of lifetime learning,
    - demonstrating self-discipline, respect for others, and the ability to work collaboratively as a team.
  3. Communicate effectively through:
    - developing effective written communication skills,
    - developing effective oral communication and listening skills.
  4. Think analytically through:
    - utilizing quantitative information in problem solving,
    - utilizing the principles of systematic inquiry,
    - utilizing various information resources including technology for research and data collection.

### **COURSE OUTCOMES/COMPETENCIES** (as Required)

Upon completion the student will be able to:

1. Compile a journal which includes
  - a. significant information regarding the subject matter studied.
  - b. documentation of important events and developments relating to the subject matter studied.
  - c. analysis of events, materials, and developments relating to the subject.
  - d. discussion of changes relating to the subject studied.
2. Discuss each chosen seminar subject and
  - a. construct comments to share from pertinent reading, audio-visual, and internet information.
  - b. respond to questions from the instructor.
  - c. construct comments to share regarding understanding of the materials presented in class and the assigned outside reading.
  - d. respond to questions and points made by fellow students.
  - e. employ other creative methods to capture some aspect of a given subject to share with class members.
3. Discuss how their experiences in this class have added to their understanding and appreciation of the natural world.
4. Discuss and describe ways in which the study of the material
  - a. provides a broader perspective of himself/herself, society, and the natural world.
  - b. adds variety to his/her involvement.
  - c. enriches his/her life.
  - d. learns to enjoy a variety of subject matter.

## **MINIMUM COURSE CONTENT**

The following topics must be included in this course. Additional topics may also be included.

- I. Coursework involving the techniques of scientific study.
- II. Coursework in developing an understanding of the topic as it relates to the ecology of Kansas.
- III. Coursework in developing an understanding of the ecological relationships between given topics found in Kansas.
- IV. Field trips to apply course work understandings

## **STUDENT REQUIREMENTS AND METHOD OF EVALUATION**

Meaningful learning experiences require effort on both the parts of the student and the instructor. There are several expectations of the students enrolled in this class:

1. Class attendance – the student should attend class for the exposure to the learning environment.
2. Effort should be given to staying current with the reading and skills required in the class.
3. Participate in class discussions and activities.

## **GRADING PROCEDURE AND SCALE**

Grading will involve either a pass or no grade or a traditional letter grade. The decision as to what grading system to be used must be made at the beginning of the class. If the option to earn a letter grade is chosen, the student must inform the instructor and also obtain permission from the Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs. Earning a traditional letter grade will involve formal tests and a specified research assignment. The pass or no grade will be based on an evaluation by the instructor as to the effort, attendance, class participation, required journal, and a demonstrated gain on pre and post tests over the stated class competencies. The traditional letter grade will be based on an evaluation, as previously stated, and the results of formal testing and the results of an assigned research project.

The following scale will be used to establish a form letter grade 90% -100%, A; 80% - 89%, B; 70% - 79%, C; 60% - 69%, D; below 60%, F.

## **ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT GAIN**

Comparing the student's knowledge of the subject when the class begins and then by using the same measurement at the close of the class will measure assessment of student gain. This measurement will be done via pre and post essay tests over the stated course competencies.

## **Attendance Policy**

1. NCCC values interactive learning which promotes student engagement in the learning process. To be actively engaged, the student must be present in the learning environment.
2. Unless students are participating in a school activity or are excused by the instructor, they are

expected to attend class. If a student's absences exceed one-eighth of the total course duration, (which equates to one hundred (100) minutes per credit hour in a face-to-face class) the instructor has the right, but is not required, to withdraw a student from the course. Once the student has been dropped for excessive absences, the registrar's office will send a letter to the student, stating that he or she has been dropped. A student may petition the chief academic officer for reinstatement by submitting a letter stating valid reasons for the absences within one week of the registrar's notification. If the student is reinstated into the class, the instructor and the registrar will be notified. Please refer to the Student Handbook/Academic Policies for more information

3. Absences that occur due to students participating in official college activities are excused except in those cases where outside bodies, such as the State Board of Nursing, have requirements for minimum class minutes for each student. Students who are excused will be given reasonable opportunity to make up any missed work or receive substitute assignments from the instructor and should not be penalized for the absence. Proper procedure should be followed in notifying faculty in advance of the student's planned participation in the event. Ultimately it is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor in advance of the planned absence.

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

NCCC expects every student to demonstrate ethical behavior with regard to academic pursuits. Academic integrity in coursework is a specific requirement. Definitions, examples, and possible consequences for violations of Academic Integrity, as well as the appeals process, can be found in the College Catalog, Student Handbook, and/or Code of Student Conduct and Discipline.

### **ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY**

Student cell phones and other personal electronic devices not being used for class activities must not be accessed during class times unless the instructor chooses to waive this policy.

### **NOTE:**

Information and statements in this document are subject to change at the discretion of NCCC. Students will be notified of changes and where to find the most current approved documents.

### **NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

The following link provides information related to the non-discrimination policy of NCCC, including persons with disabilities. Students are urged to review this policy.

<http://www.neosho.edu/Departments/NonDiscrimination.aspx>

### **COURSE NOTES**