**PRACTICUM IN AGRICULTURE, FOOD & NATURAL RESOURCES (MECHANICAL SYSTEMS)**

**Course Syllabus**

**Instructor:** Mr. Michael Zarosky

 **Contact Information:** School Phone: 210-945-1100 ext.19600

 Email: mzarosky@judsonisd.org

 Website: [www.judson.ffanow.org](http://www.judson.ffanow.org)

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**Course Information**

Supervised practical application of knowledge and skills in mechanical systems. This course includes a heavy emphasis in **project construction**, critical thinking, and problem-solving tasks. Students can receive NCCER certification, Private Pesticide Applicators, and Safe Tractor & Machinery Operation certification

**Class Objectives**

During the course of this semester, we will cover a wide range of topics concerning agriculture mechanical systems. Some of the topics we will cover are listed below:

* Entrepreneurship & employment opportunities
* Hand and power tools
* Electric wiring skills
* Plumbing skills
* Concrete and construction skills
* Fencing skills
* Carpentry skills
* Cold and hot metal skills

**Materials Needed**

* Notebook to take notes, handouts, and graded papers home with you.
* Composition Notebook for daily journals which will stay in the classroom.
* Paper
* Pen
* Pencil
* Shop clothes

**Grading Scale**

*Tests/ Major Projects (50%):* These will consist of written tests and shop projects (individual & team)

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*Daily Assignments (40%):* This will include daily grades from activities and assignments during class. The record book and journal grades will also fall under this category.

* **Record Books-** The Texas Education Agency requires that students taking Agricultural Science classes maintain a record book. A written copy of the record book will remain in the classroom, and they will also be updated online. Students will be given time during class to update their books. All students are expected to keep the record book current. Students will receive a weekly grade.
* **Journals**- Students are required to record journals in this class. They will be kept in the classroom, updated by the student at the beginning of each class period, and used to record class notes. Journals will be available for students to take home to assist with homework or test preparation; however they will be graded regularly. Therefore, it is very important that journals are kept in the appropriate section of the classroom so that they are available for grading.

*Homework (10%):* This category includes any assignments to be brought home for homework or completed outside of class.

*Late Work:* Grades on late work will be reduced by 10%. Students have one additional day for each day absent before an assignment will be counted late. Major projects which were assigned due dates prior to the absence will still be due on the day that the student returns.

