

Welcome to AP Environmental Science

Course Description

The AP Environmental Science course is a full-year course designed to be the equivalent of an introductory college course in environmental science. The goal of the course is to provide you with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made, to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and to examine alternative solutions for resolving or preventing them. You will be prepared to take the AP Environmental Science exam scheduled for May.

Major Topics in Environmental Science

- I. Scientific Analysis
Scientific method, data collection, controlled experiments, applied math
- II. Interdependence of Earth's Systems
Energy flow, cycles of matter, geology, atmosphere, biosphere, ecosystems
- III. Human Population Dynamics
Growth throughout time, distribution, carrying capacity
- IV. Renewable and Nonrenewable Resources
Water, minerals, soils, biological diversity, energy, land
- V. Environmental Quality
Pollutants, solid waste, impact on human health
- VI. Global Changes and Their Consequences
Atmospheric changes, ocean changes, UV light, habitat destruction
- VII. Environment and Society
Economic forces, cultural considerations, environmental ethics, laws, regulation
- VIII. Choices for the Future
Conservation, preservation, remediation, sustainability



Required Supplies and Resources

- Text: Living in the Environment 17th edition Miller/Spoolman ISBN: 978-0-538-49383-3
Be sure you are buying the AP edition!
- iPad with Notability app. A sharp point stylus is recommended for writing additional notes.
- Access to your Google Drive account
- 2 pocket paper folder with prongs
- Messaging service either with your iPhone or iPad

Attendance

Good attendance is essential to being successful in this course. Much material will be covered at a fast pace. If you know about an absence in advance, please see me to discuss what you will miss. Assignments will be due on the date given, whether or not you are present or class meets. If you have been absent, it is up to you to find out what assignments or activities you may have missed and to get any lecture notes from a classmate that have may been added to the lecture notes on Canvas. If the absence is lengthy or there are extenuating circumstances, please see me to discuss the matter.

Grading

How do I get an A?

An 'A' means excellent, so be a student that excels. Plan on studying the material outside of class, even when there's not a test. Reread your notes, assignments, labs and handouts. Be able to apply information to new situations, don't just memorize facts. Make sure assignments are neat, well-thought out and on time. Don't copy assignments. Form study groups with other hard-workers. Keep up on current environmental issues. Ask questions. Remember that a 'C' grade means 'average'. Putting in an average amount of effort will earn an average grade.

Grades will be determined by grades on tests, quizzes, homework, lab and field exercises, classwork and projects. Tests are a significant part of that grade (50%).

Homework will be assigned regularly, which includes reading. It is recommended that you outline chapters; however, it is not a requirement. The idea is for you to develop your own personal strategy for digesting textbook material. There will be quizzes on each chapter assigned and those dates will be relayed to you well in advance. For homework, classwork and lab assignments, do not expect to receive full credit for incorrect, incomplete, poor-quality or sloppy work.

Labwork will be done on a regular basis. Your participation is essential to your understanding. In the event it is not possible to repeat the activity, you are still responsible for knowing the purpose, procedure, results, calculations and conclusions of that experiment.

Quizzes and tests will be given periodically and will be announced. Quizzes will be based on reading assignments. Expect to make up quizzes *the day you return* from an absence. Tests will be multiple choice and FRQ's with the multiple choice portion on one day and the FRQ's on the next.

Integrity

By your enrollment in this course, it appears that you are willing to challenge yourself. This is a college-level course. You are expected to complete your own work in your own words.

Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated and will receive a grade of ZERO.

Administrative discipline may also occur. **Simply because you worked with a partner does not mean you submit identical assignments.**

Contact

I am available B and C periods, recharge, before school beginning at 7:30 and after school until 3:40, for extra help or general questions. You may contact me either via email or text messaging. I will provide you with my phone number during our first class meeting and I would like to have yours as well. If you prefer not to share your phone number, I will need your iPad messaging contact for 'instant' communication throughout the year.

Is this course easy?

It's an Advanced Placement course. AP ≠ easy. But.....the concepts and topics discussed and learned in this class are some of the most applicable concepts you will learn in high school that will be useful to you in every aspect of your life. The more engaged you are in the information, the 'easier' it will be!