



Course Description

International Baccalaureate

Course Information

Name	Level (SL/ HL)	Both Years Mandatory (HL only)	Frequency (Years/ Dates)
Environmental Systems and Societies	SL	No	

General Information

Description

This course focuses on scientific exploration of environmental systems in their structure and function and in the exploration of cultural, economic, ethical, political, and social interactions of societies with the environment. This course looks at the various types of system and societies and the impacts of those on biodiversity and ecology. The course requires a systems approach to environmental understanding and problem solving and promotes holistic thinking about environmental issues. It is recognized that to understand the environmental issues of the 21st century and suggest suitable management solutions, both the human and environmental aspects must be understood.

Expectations and Goals

Students should expect to participate in classroom discussions each week. These classroom discussions will often focus on the theory of knowledge questions related to the course. Students will be completing laboratory work using simulations and virtual models. Each student will be completing an internal assessment during the course.

Learning Outcomes

1. Promote understanding of the environmental processes at variety of scales, from local to global
2. Provide a body of knowledge, methodologies and skills that can be used in the analysis of environmental issues at local and global levels
3. Enable students to apply the knowledge, methodologies and skills gained
4. Promote critical awareness of a diversity of cultural perspectives

5. Recognize the extent to which technology plays a role in both causing and solving environmental problems
6. Appreciate the value of local as well as international collaboration in resolving environmental problems
7. Appreciate that environmental issues may be controversial, and may provoke a variety of responses
8. Appreciate that human society is both directly and indirectly linked to the environment at a number of levels and at a variety of scales.

Required Text

Environmental Systems and Societies for the IB Diploma – 2nd Edition

By Paul Guinness and Brenda Walpole

Course Outline

Topic/ Unit	Topic	Year	Exercises
Topic 1	Foundations of ESS	1	
Topic 2	Ecosystems and Ecology	1	
Topic 3	Biodiversity and Conservation	1	
Topic 4	Water and aquatic food production systems and societies	1	
Topic 5	Soil systems and terrestrial food production systems and societies	1	
Topic 6	Atmospheric systems and societies	1	
Topic 7	Climate Change and Energy Production	1	
Topic 8	Human systems and Resource Use	1	

Assessment Schedule

Date	Assessment
Year 1	Internal Assessment

Additional Information and Resources