

AP Environmental Science Course Disclosure

Instructor: Mrs. Elizabeth Moretz

Room: 1201

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(preferred communication)

Course Description (from the College Board)

AP Environmental Science is “designed to be the equivalent of a one semester introductory college course in environmental science”. This course weaves laboratory and field investigations into an interactive classroom curriculum that includes field trips and guest speakers. This course incorporates the natural sciences along with several aspects of social sciences.

The goal of this course is to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made, and to evaluate the risks associated with these problems and examine alternative solutions for resolving and presenting them.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course the student will demonstrate a thorough understanding of the following Big Ideas or Themes:

- Science is a process
- Energy conversions underlie all ecological processes
- The Earth itself is one interconnected system.
- Humans alter natural systems.
- Environmental problems have a cultural and social context
- Human survival depends on developing practices that will achieve sustainable systems.

Course Progression

MARKING PERIOD 1	MARKING PERIOD 3
The Nature of Science Introduction to Environmental Science The Living World Earth’s Systems and Resources	Energy Resources Pollution
MARKING PERIOD 2	MARKING PERIOD 4
Population Dynamics Land Resources and Uses Energy Resources	Global Change AP Review & Exam I Make A Difference Projects

Course Requirements

A. Required Daily Supplies:

- Textbook – Friedland, A., R. Relyea, D. Courard-Hauri (2012) *Environmental Science for AP*. New York, NY. W.H. Freeman and Company
- Mandatory Student Supplies:
 - 3-ring binder
 - Lined notebook paper
 - Dividers for binder (8)
 - Index cards - many
 - Highlighter
 - Blue or black pens/#2 Pencils

B. Student Evaluation

- Students' grades are based on effort (40%) and achievement (60%)
- A citizenship grade will be determined based on participation throughout the marking period.
- An average of 3 hours per work will be devoted to conducting laboratory experiments. Students are to record all laboratory work in a laboratory notebook or binder.
- A year-long senior research project will be required of each student.
- A unit test will be given at the conclusion of every major topic. Tests will consist of multiple choice questions and essay questions. It is important that students review material regularly to perform well on all assessments.
- Lab work, projects, science binders, Free Response Questions, writing assignments and participation in class discussions will also serve to evaluate student understanding.
- **Students in AP Environmental Science are encouraged to take the AP Environmental Science Exam on May 5th at 8:00 a.m.**
- Grades will be updated on the computer every two weeks and parents can access their students' grade via the district website <http://www.slcschools.org/pa>
- Grades will be assigned according to the school district's grading scale.
 - A = 95 – 100%
 - A- = 90 - 94%
 - B+ = 87 – 89%
 - B = 84 - 86%
 - B- = 80 - 83%
 - C+ = 77-79%
 - C = 74 - 76%
 - C- = 70 – 73%
 - D+ = 67 – 69%
 - D = 64 - 66%
 - D- = 60 – 63%
 - F = 0 – 59%

C. Class/Homework

- Homework will be assigned several times each week.
- Class work will be due at the end of class, unless otherwise stated
- Students are expected to maintain an organized binder of class work and homework, in order to develop a collection of resources needed for the AP exam. **Missing assignments will not be eligible for credit**, and additional points will be deducted during future evaluations if such assignments are not made up. Completing missing assignments will not make up missing credit but it will help them in learning the material and doing well on the exam.

D. Make-Up Work

- It is the student's responsibility to inquire about and complete missed work.
- Students have 2 days to make up work for each day missed.

E. Extra Help

- *AP Environmental Science tutoring* – 2nd lunch
- *AP Exam Prep* – One Friday per month, January – April
- *The Writing Lab* – The writing lab is a place for you to visit at any stage in your writing process: you can get help brainstorming ideas, outlining an essay, organizing your writing, revising, editing, creating a bibliography, and/or doing the research required for a writing assignment. The Writing Lab is located in room 1218.

F. Classroom Expectations:

- Everyone will display respect towards instructor and peers by using appropriate terminology, refraining from vulgar or inappropriate language, and refraining from interrupting or ridiculing others.
- Students are expected to come to class on time (i.e., in his/her seat) and prepared to participate.
- Everyone will follow all lab safety rules at all times during a lab procedure
- Everyone will respect other's space and belongings
- Everyone will display integrity in his or her work both inside and outside of the classroom.
 - Plagiarism = cheating
 - Cheating = 0 points for the giver and receiver of information

----- PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN FOR HOMEWORK CREDIT -----

Parent and Student Acknowledgement

Student Name: _____

Please check the following, fill out the requested information, and sign.

I have reviewed the syllabus for Mrs. Moretz's Science Class.

I have signed the Safety Contract to be returned with this acknowledgement.

Contact information - phone number(s)/email address(es):

Phone Number (h): _____

Phone Number (c): _____

Email Address: _____

Alternative Email Address: _____

Additional Information – Please provide me with any additional information you would like me to know about your student:

Parent/Guardian(s) Name(s) (PRINT):

Parent/Guardian(s) Signature(s): _____ Date: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____