

AP Environmental Science Syllabus

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2024-2025
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AP Environmental Science Course Overview

The AP Environmental Science course is designed to engage students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships within the natural world. The course requires that students identify and analyze natural and human-made environmental problems, evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and examine alternative solutions for resolving or preventing them. Environmental science is interdisciplinary, embracing topics from geology, biology, environmental studies, environmental science, chemistry, and geography.

In this class we will focus on seven essential skills:

- (1) **Concept Explanation:** Explain environmental concepts, processes, and models presented in written format.
- (2) **Visual Representation:** Analyze visual representations of environmental concepts and processes.
- (3) **Text Analysis:** Analyze sources of information about environmental issues.
- (4) **Scientific Experiments:** Analyze research studies that test environmental principles.
- (5) **Data Analysis:** Analyze and interpret quantitative data represented in tables, charts, and graphs.
- (6) **Mathematical Routines:** Apply quantitative methods to address environmental concepts.
- (7) **Environmental Solutions:** Propose and justify solutions to environmental problems.

Each day in this course you will read, analyze visuals and data, listen, speak, and learn! These are the skills that are expected of you and you should come prepared to contribute every day. The purpose is to prepare you to pass the AP test in the spring and to teach you to think about and understand Environmental Science at the college level.

As a member of this course, you will be expected to be a citizen of this class and school community.

Preparation and engagement are essential. In this class you are expected to listen, speak, and act with integrity. You are also expected to honor all individuals in this classroom. Every voice matters and deserves to be treated with respect.

AP Environmental Science Course Content

The College Board / AP Central has established a series of nine units in alignment with the skills necessary to meet college level Environmental Science requirements as well as to help you with success on the test. These nine units will be covered throughout the entire year and will build on each other.

The AP Environmental Science course is designed to be the equivalent of a one-semester, introductory college course in environmental science.

The units are as follows:

- Unit 1 - Ecosystems
- Unit 2 - Biodiversity
- Unit 3 - Populations
- Unit 4 - Earth Systems and Resources
- Unit 5 - Land and Water Use
- Unit 6 - Energy Resources and Consumption
- Unit 7 - Atmospheric Pollution
- Unit 8 - Aquatic and Terrestrial Pollution
- Unit 9 - Global Climate Change

Advanced Placement Environmental Science Examination

- It is an expectation that all students take the AP exam. Financial assistance is available. **The 2025 exam date is Tuesday, May 13, 2025.**

General Policies and Procedures

Course Logistics and Communication:

- Lesson plans, due dates, and assignment submission drop-boxes will all be available on Schoology
- Emails will only be answered during standard school hours. On Mondays-Fridays, I will be available from 8:00AM-3:50PM. Emails received over the weekend and/or holidays will not be responded to until the work week resumes.
- Email is the preferred and easiest mode of communication when you need help or clarification.
 - Email: aoanes@west-fargo.k12.nd.us
- It is the expectation that you are checking Schoology and the Lesson Plans daily for all course updates.

Daily Materials:

- WFPS issued iPad (and charging accessories)
- WFPS issued Logitech crayon
- Your “APES Notes” Notebook
- Writing utensils / organizational materials / planner
- Your logins for College Board and Positive STEM

Grading Policy

Weighted Gradebook:

- 30% - Daily Work / Quizzes / Activity Labs
- 70% - Unit Exams / Practicum Labs

Grading Scale: AP Environmental Science will use the standard West Fargo grading scale. AP Environmental Science is a “weighted” course. My goal is to always keep grades updated on a weekly basis. Larger assignments may take me longer to grade, but this will be communicated to learners as necessary.

- **A** 90-100%
- **B** 80-89%
- **C** 70-79%
- **D** 60-69%
- **F** 0-59%

Missing Work / Late Work Policy

- Work will be marked as “missing” and entered as a zero until it has been completed. Due to the length of certain units, “blackout dates” will be assigned throughout it. A “blackout date” indicates that an assignment is no longer worth credit after that date and will remain a zero. These dates will be communicated early and often.
- If you are submitting an assignment late before the “blackout date”, you **must** communicate via email to me **and** parent/guardian that you have submitted your assignment and a plan of action of how to avoid a late submission in the future. Your assignment will **not** be graded until you have sent this email to me with your parent/guardian included on the same email.
- Any planned absence, whether personal or school related, must be communicated to me ahead of time. Please send me an email with the dates that you will be gone, and I will work with you to get you the necessary resources and materials ahead of your absence.
- Students are expected to make up unit tests prior to any absences. If a test is not made up prior to an absence, you will have two school days upon your return to school to make up the test. Failure to make it up within those two days will result in you losing the opportunity to make test corrections.

Additional notes about grading:

- If an assignment is marked with a late indicator (red) - it was turned in late.
- If an assignment is marked with a missing indicator (orange) - I’m missing it and it needs to be turned in. I’ll clear the indicator soon after you have sent the required email (please see above) and submitted the assignment.

Cheating and Plagiarism Policy

In the era of technology, please be aware of the appropriate use of information obtained from Google, AI, ChatGPT, and other students. I want to assess your skills and knowledge. **Cheating and plagiarism is not acceptable.** Please refer to the WFHS Student Handbook for specific information on cheating and plagiarism.

WFHS Food and Drink Policy

- No food in hallways
- This includes Period 1 and Period 2 breakfasts
- This includes all lunches (purchased from school, brought from home, fast food, take-out, etc.)
- Food in classrooms must be provided by teacher(s)
- All drinks must be in a container with non-spill lid
- Food or drinks NOT in a non-spill lid will be directed to be thrown away

WFHS Attendance Policy

Absences

- Automatic alerts at the end of the period for each UV to families
- Automatic alerts sent at 5 and 7 absences
- Family contact by admin when nearing 10 absences to discuss contract
- Take daily, accurate attendance
- Administrator is following up with call down list daily

Tardies

- Tardy is defined by the teachers in the classroom. In Ms. Oanes’ classroom, you must be in the classroom, seated, and ready to learn when the bell rings at the start of the period.
- Every fifth tardy is recorded as a UV in PowerSchool
- After 20 minutes have passed since the start of the class, the student will be marked UV in PowerSchool.

WFPS Secondary Schools Cell Phone Policy

West Fargo Public Schools holds high expectations for student behavior, academic integrity, and responsible use of existing and emerging technology, such as cell phones, iPods, iPads, laptops, and other personal electronic devices capable of transmitting data or images. Students who possess and/or use such devices at school or school-sponsored events shall demonstrate the greatest respect for the educational environment. Standards for responsible use at school, on busses, or at school activities:

- Students shall not use any electronic device that in any way disrupts or detracts from the educational environment. Electronic devices are inclusive of cell phones, smart watches, earbuds, and school-issued devices.
- Cell phones must be out-of-sight and out-of-use from the first bell to the last bell of all classes, including during study halls and within flexed learning spaces that are an extension of a classroom.
- Cell phones may be used appropriately and respectfully in common spaces during non-instructional times, including passing time, the student lunch period, and before and after school.
- It is the student's responsibility to secure their electronic devices to show care for their technology devices and personal information. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen items or individual service plan charges related to use of electronic devices.
- Students are expected to respect the network and adhere to the Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) when using school-issued and personal electronic devices. Students will be expected to access the district's Wi-Fi network via their iPad during designated school activities unless connections are unavailable. Wi-Fi is not available for students' personal electronic devices.
- Photographing or recording of another person should be used for educational purposes as defined by the teacher. Any use of an electronic device for other than educational purposes will result in a consequence. Messages and photos on an electronic device are subject to viewing by administration given reasonable suspicion of a crime or school infraction.
- The USE of cellular phones or other personal electronic devices is strictly prohibited in locker rooms and restrooms.

West Fargo High School Procedure:

- The first time a phone is delivered to the Main Office due to an infraction of this policy, it will be returned to the student at the end of their instructional day.
- The second time a phone is delivered to the Main Office due to an infraction of this policy, the student must check the phone into the Main Office before the instructional day begins for the next five school days. Even if the student claims to be leaving the phone at home, they must report to the Main Office at the start of each day to check in with their administrator. The student can pick up the device at the end of their instructional day.
- The third time a phone is delivered to the Main Office due to an infraction of this policy, a family meeting will be scheduled by the student's administrator. Until the time of the family meeting, the student must check the phone into the Main Office before the instructional day begins. Even if the student claims to be leaving the phone at home, they must report to the Main Office at the start of each day to check in with their administrator. The student can pick up the device at the end of their instructional day. At the family meeting, further ramifications will be determined.
- Additional violations will be addressed by the discretion of the administrative team.

What AP Stands For

Thousands of Advanced Placement teachers have contributed to the principles articulated here. These principles are not new; they are, rather, a reminder of how AP already works in classrooms nationwide. The following principles are designed to ensure that teachers' expertise is respected, required course content is understood, and that students are academically challenged and free to make up their own minds.

- **AP stands for clarity and transparency.** Teachers and students deserve clear expectations. The Advanced Placement Program makes public its course frameworks and sample assessments. Confusion about what is permitted in the classroom disrupts teachers and students as they navigate demanding work.
- **AP is an unflinching encounter with evidence.** AP courses enable students to develop as independent thinkers and to draw their own conclusions. Evidence and the scientific method are the starting place for conversations in AP courses.
- **AP opposes censorship.** AP is animated by a deep respect for the intellectual freedom of teachers and students alike. If a school bans required topics from their AP courses, the AP Program removes the AP designation from that course and its inclusion in the AP Course Ledger provided to colleges and universities. For example, the concepts of evolution are at the heart of college biology, and a course that neglects such concepts does not pass muster as AP Biology.
- **AP opposes indoctrination.** AP students are expected to analyze different perspectives from their own, and no points on an AP Exam are awarded for agreement with a viewpoint. AP students are not required to feel certain ways about themselves or the course content. AP courses instead develop students' abilities to assess the credibility of sources, draw conclusions, and make up their own minds. As the AP English Literature course description states: "AP students are not expected or asked to subscribe to any one specific set of cultural or political values, but are expected to have the maturity to analyze perspectives different from their own and to question the meaning, purpose, or effect of such content within the literary work as a whole."
- **AP courses foster an open-minded approach to the histories and cultures of different peoples.** The study of different nationalities, cultures, religions, races, and ethnicities is essential within a variety of academic disciplines. AP courses ground such studies in primary sources so that students can evaluate experiences and evidence for themselves.
- **Every AP student who engages with evidence is listened to and respected.** Students are encouraged to evaluate arguments but not one another. AP classrooms respect diversity in backgrounds, experiences, and viewpoints. The perspectives and contributions of the full range of AP students are sought and considered. Respectful debate of ideas is cultivated and protected; personal attacks have no place in AP.
- **AP is a choice for parents and students.** Parents and students freely choose to enroll in AP courses. Course descriptions are available online for parents and students to inform their choice. Parents do not define which college-level topics are suitable within AP courses; AP course and exam materials are crafted by committees of professors and other expert educators in each field. AP courses and exams are then further validated by the American Council on Education and studies that confirm the use of AP scores for college credits by thousands of colleges and universities nationwide.

"What AP Stands for." AP Central, College Board, 2022,
apcentral.collegeboard.org/about-ap/whatap-stands-for. Accessed 22 Aug. 2022.