



AP Environmental Science Instructional Plan

Jessica Smith

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Course Overview

This course focuses on the identification and analysis of environmental problems, both natural and human-made, as well as the evaluation of associated risks. The overarching goal is to prepare students to be well-informed participants in environmental problem-solving. By the end of the course, students will be prepared for the AP Environmental Science exam and will have a deeper understanding of their role as informed, responsible citizens in a complex and interconnected world.

Advanced Placement Environmental Science Big Ideas

This course in AP Environmental Science (APES) is structured around the four big ideas and the seven scientific practices detailed in the course and exam description guide.

Big Idea 1: Energy conversions underlie all ecological processes. Energy cannot be created or destroyed

Big Idea 2: The Earth is one system. Biogeochemical systems vary in ability to recover from disturbances.

Big Idea 3: Humans alter natural systems and have had an impact on the environment for millions of years. Technology has enabled humans to increase the scale of our impact.

Big Idea 4: Human survival depends on developing practices that will achieve sustainable systems. A suitable combination of conservation and development is required.

The Seven Science Practices

Concept Explanation: Students will explain environmental concepts, processes, & models in written format.

Visual Representation: Students will analyze visual representations of environmental concepts and processes.

Text Analysis: Students will analyze sources of information about environmental issues

Scientific Experiments: Students will analyze research studies that test environmental principles.

Data Analysis: Students will analyze and interpret quantitative data represented in tables, charts, graphs.

Mathematical Routines: Students will apply quantitative methods to address environmental concepts

Environmental Solutions: Students will propose and justify solutions to environmental problems

Tutorials

Morning: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday **After school** I will have tutorials on Tuesday and Thursday.

Lunch tutorials will be by appointment

Units of Instruction

First Semester	Second Semester
Unit 1 - The Living World: Ecosystems Unit 2 - The Living World: Biodiversity Unit 3 - Populations Unit 4 - Earth Systems and Resources Unit 5: Land and Water Use	Unit 6 - Energy Resources Unit 7 - Air Pollution Unit 8 - Aquatic and Terrestrial Pollution Unit 9 - Global Change

Throughout the year we will be discussing important pieces of environmental legislation.



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Grade Breakdown

According to Midland ISD Grading Policy:

Major Assignments- 60% and **Minor Assignments-** 40% **Semester Exams-** 15% of Semester grade

Tests

Tests are designed to prepare you to take the national exam. Each test will have multiple choice questions and FRQs. Each part will count for 50% of the test.

Redo Policy

There will be test corrections for every test. You will be required to do test corrections during lunch or tutorials. They must be completed within five school days of taking the test. The week following a test, I will be available every day for lunch and most mornings as well to give students an opportunity to complete test corrections.

Materials Needed

3 ring 1.5 inch binder, pen/pencil, chromebook, loose leaf paper

Instructional Resources

The textbook we will be using this year is *Environmental Science for the AP[®] Course* by Friedland, and Relyea. A digital copy will be available for all students.

Classroom Expectations

The classroom is a respectful, safe, and collaborative learning environment where students are expected to be prepared, participate actively, and respect others. The goal is academic success and personal growth for all.

Contact

If you have any questions or concerns please contact me at jessica.smith@midlandisd.net. My conference is 3:20-4:10. You can more information about me and my classroom at <https://bit.ly/sciencewithmssmith>

Attendance Policy & Its Importance

Regular school attendance is essential. Absences from class may result in serious disruption of a student's education. The student and parent should avoid unnecessary absences. Two important state laws—one dealing with compulsory attendance and the other with how attendance affects the award of a student's final grade or course credit—are discussed in the MISD Student Handbook.

Please notify the school if your child will be absent. Frequent or extended absences may make it more difficult for your child to learn necessary foundational skills that ensure student success this year and in future school years and could result in loss of credit.



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Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. We are excited to work together to make this a successful year of learning!

Please fill out the portion below and return this portion to your teacher.

We acknowledge that we have read and that we understand the expectations in AP Environmental Science. We agree to contact the teacher should we have any questions or concerns regarding this instructional plan.

Parent Name: _____

Student Name: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____

E-Mail: _____

Parent Signature : _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____