2025-2026 AP Environmental Science Syllabus

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Course overview:

Advanced Placement Environmental Science ("APES") is a college-level environmental science course. Experiences in the laboratory and field and through virtual internet labs will provide students with opportunities to relate classroom concepts to real-world applications of environmental science. Students will be able to explore specific real-world environmental issues and gain an awareness of the science behind these issues. They will explore the impact of our growing human population and understand that they have a stake in the future of the environment.

Course materials:

- Two-inch binder with 8 tab dividers for each unit, MacBook and charger, compatible headphones or earbuds, calculator
- $30 lab fee (please pay through MySchoolBucks by August 31st)
- Textbook: Friedland, Andrew and Rick Relyea. *Environmental Science for the AP® Course*. 4th ed., New York, NY: Bedford, Freeman, and Worth, 2023.

Grading scale:

A=90-100 B=80-89 C=70-79 D=65-69 F=64 and below
Major Grades (tests/projects) = 66% of term average
Minor Grades (classwork/homework/quizzes) = 33% of term average
*Note: This class receives a 1.1 gradebook weight.

Make-up work:

You are responsible for checking Canvas to find out what you missed and for making up all missed work after an absence in a timely manner. **If you are absent for a quiz or test, please see me to schedule a time to make it up.** You will be allowed up to the second to last class day before a test to make up a quiz. If you miss a test, you will have exactly ONE week past that date to make up the test. Failure to make these up within the time limit will result in a ZERO.

Class rules and expectations:

Rule #1: **Be respectful**. Treat every person and visitor to our classroom with civility and empathy.

Rule #2: **Be responsible**. Have materials ready at the beginning of class. Follow all safety procedures in the lab. Be proactive if you are missing assignments so that you don't fall behind. Communicate if you need additional help.

Rule #3: **Work hard**. Participation matters! Come to class with a positive attitude and ready to learn.

Cell phones are NOT to be used any time during the class period. All phones must be silenced and stored away in their assigned pocket by the tardy bell. **Plagiarism, cheating, and other unprofessional conduct will not be tolerated.**

Earning College/University Credit:
The AP Exam is scheduled for May 15, 2026, at 8 a.m. This test is the driving force for the curriculum taught throughout the year. Upon passing the AP Exam, students will receive a one-semester, introductory college course credit in environmental science. Please see the AP Credit Policy Search link on Canvas to see the minimum score required for credit.

Section I: Multiple Choice 80 Questions | 1 hour 30 Minutes | 60% of Exam Score
Section II: Free Response 3 Questions | 1 hour 10 Minutes | 40% of Exam Score

- **Question 1: Design an investigation** presents students with an authentic environmental scenario accompanied by either a model/visual representation or quantitative data.
- **Question 2: Analyze an environmental problem and propose a solution** presents students with an authentic environmental scenario accompanied by either a model/visual representation or quantitative data.
- **Question 3: Analyze an environmental problem and propose a solution doing calculations** presents students with an authentic environmental scenario.

Extra Help:
Any student seeking additional help may attend tutorial, offered on Thursday mornings from 7:45-8:15 a.m. or by appointment. Please email me in advance to let me know that you will be attending. Optional test reviews are held from 7:45-8:15 a.m. on test days.

Navigating Canvas:
A calendar of past and current daily topics/activities will be posted to the Canvas homepage. **Major due dates, quiz dates, and the test date are posted at the beginning of each unit.** Homework is also posted to this calendar daily. If you are absent, you must check the calendar to see what you need to make up. **Under Modules, you will find additional study resources for each unit and topic.**

Labs and Activities:
Students will spend a minimum of 25% of instructional time engaged in a wide range of hands-on, inquiry-based laboratory investigations and/or field work to support learning required content. Some labs require individual research and data gathering while others have groups of 3–4 students working together.

Homework/Quizzes:
Your homework will be to watch short lecture videos and fill out guided notes on the following class's topic. This "flipped classroom" approach allows more time in class to complete labs and activities. **Check the Canvas calendar each day to see your homework.** You will periodically have quizzes throughout the unit. Expect to have a quiz every 3-5 topics covered. Binders will be checked on the day of the test.

Course topics: EIN=Interactions Between Different Species and the Environment, ENG=Energy Transfer, ERT=Interactions Between Earth Systems, STB=Sustainability

Unit Number and Title	% of Exam	Big Ideas
Unit 1: The Living World: Ecosystems	6–8%	ENG, ERT
Unit 2: The Living World: Biodiversity	6–8%	ERT
Unit 3: Populations	10-15%	ERT, EIN
Unit 4: Earth Systems and Resources	10-15%	ENG, ERT
Unit 5: Land and Water Use	10-15%	EIN, STB
Unit 6: Energy Resources and Consumption	10-15%	ENG
Unit 7: Atmospheric Pollution	7-10%	STB
Unit 8: Aquatic and Terrestrial Pollution	7-10%	EIN, STB
Unit 9: Global Change	15-20%	EIN, STB

Required legislation to know for the AP exam: Clean Air Act; Clean Water Act; Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA); Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA); Montreal Protocol; Kyoto Protocol; Endangered Species Act; Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA); and the Delany Clause.

Grading:

	Minor	Major
1x	Bellringers, AP Classroom progress checks	Projects, lab posters
2x	Quizzes, binder checks	Tests