

Environmental Science Course Guideline

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Phone: 706-769-7760

Room: 1107

Course Description:

The focus of this course is to introduce students to the basic concepts of environmental science; the relationship between science, our environment, and our everyday world. Instruction in this course emphasizes hands-on, student-centered, and inquiry-based approaches. The students will use problem-solving skills to expand their knowledge in the classroom and laboratory. This course meets and exceeds minimum standards as prescribed by the Georgia Performance Standards and helps satisfy the science requirements for the college seal diploma.

Course Schedule:

Unit 1:	Introduction	
	Chapter 1	Introduction to Environmental Science
	Chapter 2	Tools of Environmental Science
	Chapter 3	The Dynamic Earth
Unit 2:	Ecosystems	
	Chapter 4	Organization of Life
	Chapter 5	Ecosystems
	Chapter 7	Aquatic Ecosystems
	Chapter 6	Biomes
Unit 3:	Populations	
	Chapter 8	Populations
	Chapter 10	Biodiversity
	Chapter 9	Human Populations

MIDTERM EXAM

Unit 4:	Water, Air, & Land	
	Chapter 11	Water
	Chapter 12/13	Air & Atmosphere
	Chapter 14	Soils & Land
	Chapter 15	Food & Agriculture
Unit 5:	Minerals & Energy Resources	
	Chapter 16	Mining & Mineral Resources
	Chapter 17	Nonrenewable Resources
	Chapter 18	Renewable Resources
	Chapter 19	Waste
Unit 6:	Stewardship & the Future	
	Chapter 20	Environment & Human Health
	Chapter 21	Economics, Policy, & the Future

Grading:

Summative (unit tests and major projects)	50.0%
Formative (laboratory work, chapter quizzes, small projects)	25.0%
Homework/practice (class work, homework)	10.0%
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>15.0%</u>
Total	100%

Summative assessments (unit tests and/or major projects) will be given at the end of each unit studied to further assess student understanding of material. Summative assessments include tests, projects, and other related work. The students will complete several projects on their own throughout the semester. **Assessments may be individual or group based and will count for 50.0% of the student's overall grade. A cumulative final will be given and will count as 15.0% of the student's overall grade.**

Formative assessments (laboratory work, quizzes and small projects) will be assigned on a regular basis. Quizzes will be given during units to assess student progress. Students will participate in laboratory work on a regular basis. The purpose of lab work is to further develop and support concepts learned in class through hands on activities. Lab sheets will be provided for some labs while others will require students to complete a formal lab report which can be handwritten or typed. Some labs will count more than others depending on the time/depth of information. **Laboratory work, quizzes and small projects will count for 25.0% of the final grade.**

Homework, class work, and practice will be assigned on a regular basis. The purpose of the work will be further practice and/or preparation for the next day's lesson, quizzes or tests. **Homework/practice will count for 10% of the final grade.**

Final Exam exemption will be granted for students with no more than 3 absences and a 90% rounded average.

Absences and Make-up Work:

In accordance with school policy, a student who is absent from school should bring an excuse signed by a parent/guardian or health care professional. Failure to document a reasonable excuse for an absence will result in an unexcused absence. Students whose absences exceed five parent excused absences during a semester, except those with a medical excuse, will be considered unexcused. Students with unexcused absences may be referred to the school social worker for intervention.

According to school policy, the time allotted for completion of missed assignments during an absence is one day. It is the student's responsibility to ask for missed assignments and to make arrangements to make-up tests after school. **ZEROS ARE GIVEN FOR WORK NOT MADE UP WITHIN THE ALLOTTED TIME.**

A student who is absent the day before a long-term project is due is still expected to turn in the project on the scheduled day, and a student who is absent the day a long term project is expected to turn in their project on the day they return.

Lab exercises missed during an absence typically cannot be rescheduled. **Makeup assignments will be posted on teacher website. Students should follow the directions given for the assignment. Makeup labs are due within one week after the missed lab.** Lab makeup assignments are important as students are responsible for all major concepts covered in lab and are expected to answer all related test questions.

*If school is officially closed due to bad weather on a scheduled test day or on a day when a major project is due, the test/assignment will be given/due the day school reopens.

Retake Policy:

A midterm exam will be given and can replace the student's lowest test grade IF the student has completed and turned in all assignments up to that point in the semester.

Late-work:

All assignments will be given in advance with a due date. It is the student's responsibility to turn in work on time. Typically assignments turned in late will be accepted up to **five** days with a lowered letter grade for each day late. However, there will be assignments that will be graded and discussed in class, these cannot be accepted late.

Make-up Work:

If you miss a class, it is YOUR responsibility to make up all work missed. Missed work can be found in the "while you were out" box & all assignments can be found on the website, as well as any links to videos shown in class.

Required Materials:

- **Scientific Calculator (cell phones CANNOT be used in place of a calculator)**
- **Paper & Pencil**
- Textbook – Environmental Science, Arms (Holt, Rinehart, & Winston Publishing Co, Inc. 2008.) A class set of books will be available in the classroom and copies will be made available to any student who wishes to check out a textbook. All students are responsible for keeping the textbook in good condition; if it is damaged or lost the student must replace it.
- Notebook – A three ring binder with dividers

Classroom Rules/Discipline:

Students are expected to follow school rules as stated in the student handbook. **Cell phones and other electronic devices should be placed in clear bag behind the classroom prior to the start of class, NO cell phones should be out during class** unless approved by instructor.

Please be **Prompt** (be on time to class), **Prepared** (bring all materials to class), **Positive** (come to class with a good attitude and ready to learn), **Polite** (respect others), & **Productive** (use your time wisely).

Any student who does not follow this rules will receive one or more of the following consequences:

1. Verbal Warning
2. Student/teacher conference
3. Phone call to parent(s)
4. Teacher Detention before and/or after school.
5. Parent Contact
6. Referral to Counselor
7. Referral to an administrator

Academic Honesty:

The highest level of academic integrity is expected from all students. Any student who cheats, which includes accepting information from and/or giving information to others, utilizes any form of illegal academic aid during a test or on a specific assignment, or changes answers or grades is in violation of academic ethics. Plagiarism is also considered a violation of this rule. Any violation of this policy will result in disciplinary action.

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Dear Parent:

Please feel free to contact me at any time during the semester. For the quickest response, please contact me by email as listed at the top of the first page of the course syllabus. I will post grades as often as possible so that you will be aware of your student's progress throughout the semester. If you would like to be included in periodic class updates via email, please provide your address in the space above. I am looking forward to working with your child and hope this course will have a positive and lasting impact on their future. Thank you in advance for your support in this endeavor.

Nicole O'Mara

AFTER REVIEW OF THE ATTACHED SYLLABUS PLEASE SIGN, DETACH AND RETURN THIS PAGE.

I have read and agree to the rules as set forth in the Environmental Science syllabus.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Email address: _____

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____