**AP Environmental Science**

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**Course Description**

This is a rigorous 2 semester course studying environmental science. The course is designed to prepare students for the College Board AP Environmental Science exam offered on **May 9, 2024**. The course provides students with scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world. This course focuses heavily on ecology; therefore, some labs, and fieldwork will be conducted outside. It is expected that all students dress appropriately (closed-toe shoes) and be prepared for all outdoor activities.

**Required materials Optional Materials**

3 ring binder with paper index cards 1 roll paper towels

calculator graph paper 1 box of tissues

pen/pencil highlighters

**Textbook**

*Environment: The Science Behind the Stories, 6th ed.,* Withgott and Brennan, Pearson, 2017

(Replacement cost $131.97)

**Grading Scale**

15 % - Daily work 20 % - Minor Assessments

45 % - Major Assessment 20 % - Final Assessment

\*This course includes a cumulative exam at the end of each semester.

\*\*Students will be required to take a full length mock exam in the Spring.

**Since this is an AP course, retesting is not an option.**

**Google Classroom and Online Textbook**

Students will have access to an online copy of the APES textbook through Pearson’s Mastering Environmental Science. It is important for students to understand how to utilize this resource and complete tutorials and assignments. Additionally, hardcopies of class notes will be available on Google classroom. Students should be familiar with how to navigate both online platforms.

**AP Classroom**

Students will also be given video assignments and progress checks using the College Board’s AP classroom website. It is **required** that students become familiar and utilize this technology.

**Course Outline**

The content is built around four Big Ideas, which encompass the core scientific principles, theories & processes governing living organisms & biological systems.

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| **Energy Transfer -** Energy conversions underlie all ecological processes. Energy cannot be created; it must come from somewhere. As energy flows through systems, at each step, more of it becomes unusable. | **Interactions between Earth systems -** The Earth is one interconnected system. Natural systems change over time and space. Biogeochemical systems vary in ability to recover from disturbances. |
| **Interactions between different species and the environment -** Humans alter natural systems and have had an impact on the environment for millions of years. Technology and population growth have enabled humans to increase both the rate and scale of their impact on the environment. | **Sustainability -** Human survival depends on developing practices that will achieve sustainable systems. A suitable combination of conservation and development is required. The management of resources is essential. Understanding the role of cultural, social, and economic factors is vital to the development of solutions. |

**Absences**

Please check the make-up work bin on the side counter for any assignment you may have missed. If possible, call a classmate and ask them to bring it to you. If you are absent on the day of a previously announced test or presentation, be prepared to take it the DAY YOU RETURN. Make up test maybe in a different format than those given to the class. If you an aware that you will miss APES due to a scheduled appointment or extracurricular event, please get the work ahead of time. That way, you are not playing catch up with the class.

**Late Work**

**Late Work**: Homework is to be turned into the box located at the front of the classroom on the lab. Work that is not turned in at the **beginning** of class will be considered late and 25 points will be deducted from your grade. An additional 25 points will be deducted for each day that it is late.

**Tutoring**

 I encourage you to seek extra help with any material that is giving you difficulty. I am available Tuesday and Thursday from 7:30 – 8:00 for tutoring. Exceptions will be on days when I have meetings or conferences.

**Expectations**

My main goal is to teach. The students’ main goal is to learn. Anyone who impedes this process will be asked to modify their behavior or sent to an administrator depending on the severity of the impediment.

Classroom Expectations:

1. Adhere to all SAFETY rules
2. CONTRIBUTE – Do your part and clean up after yourself, DO NOT WRITE/DRAW ON THE LAB TABLES.
3. RESPECT yourself, others, & equipment
4. ARRIVE on time prepared for class
5. Minimize MOVEMENT

**Important Testing Information and Dates:**

As an advanced placement student, they are responsible for registering online for their exams. Failure to do so will mean that they are unable to participate in AP testing for this course during the current school year. Additionally, the school is responsible for meeting college board deadlines regarding testing registration. Once they have chosen to test/not test and submitted their registration through the college board website, they are responsible for any fees incurred should they later change their decision.

**AP Exam timeline:**

  8.25.23 - Deadline for students to electronically join all AP classes on College Board website (APcentral.collegeboard.org). **Students must fix College Board issues. This cannot be done administratively.**  \*Help line for students and parents 1-888-225-5427.

  10.27.23 - Deadline for students to register for AP exams on the College Board website.

  5. 9.24 - AP Environmental Science College Board Exam

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Subject \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Course Expectations and Lab Safety Contract:**

I understand that I, as an advanced placement student, am responsible for registering online for my exams. Failure to do so will mean that I am unable to participate in AP testing for this course during the current school year. Additionally, the school is responsible for meeting college board deadlines regarding testing registration. Once I have chosen to test/not test and submitted my registration through the college board website, I am responsible for any fees incurred should I later change my decision.

I, the student, will:

* Follow all instructions given by the teacher.
* Know where to get help in case of an emergency.
* Know the location of the safety equipment (fire extinguisher, eye wash, and safety shower).
* Always conduct myself in a responsible manner in a laboratory situation.
* Wear the appropriate safety equipment as directed by the teacher such as lab apron and safety goggles.
* Listen to and learn additional techniques and procedures related to safety in the lab as specified per each lab experiment.
* Take a lab safety quiz and pass with at least a grade of 80 or higher to show that I am proficient in safety knowledge related to the science laboratory.

**Student agreement**

I have read and agree to abide by the safety regulations set forth above and any additional verbal or printed instructions given in class.

Student signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Information**

My student has shared the course syllabus including the grading system, class rules, class expectations, and college board policies with me. I have read the lab safety contract and understand that my student is to abide by the safety regulations set forth above.

Parent name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Contact phone number\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_