



• Guidelines & Expectations •

INTRODUCTION:

The AP Environmental Science course is designed to be the equivalent of a one-semester, introductory, college course in environmental science. The goal of this course is to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems, and to examine alternative solutions for resolving and/or preventing them.

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:

Intellectual dishonesty is unacceptable. This includes answers from another student or “cheat sheet” during a test, copying/sharing homework, and plagiarizing in written assignments (see www.indiana.edu/~wts/wts/plagiarism.html for an explanation and tips avoiding plagiarism). All assignments are individually completed and are to be your own work, unless it is announced to be a group assignment. Students found guilty of dishonesty will receive a zero for the assignment.

GRADING:

- * 50% tests/quizzes, 25% labs, 15% quarterly project, 10% participation/miscellaneous
- * Besides content, assignments are graded for proper grammar, spelling, and writing.
- * *Extra credit is NOT offered each quarter*, although you can achieve a few bonus points on an assignment.
- * *Late assignments are unacceptable!* (You get two late tickets per semester. Unused tickets, up to 4, may be turned in for points in the fourth quarter)
- * All tests, quizzes, major projects, etc. *are kept in a student portfolio in the classroom*. Portfolios may be reviewed at any time in the classroom, but *may not be removed for security reasons*.

READINGS:

You are responsible for completing all assigned readings, and the material contained in them will be included in your tests. Assigned readings include all newspaper articles and periodicals distributed in class, supplemental books (to be announced), and of course, your textbook. Reading assignments may be followed by a “pop” quiz. Your textbook is your bible for this class and succeeding on the AP exam.

WEEKLY QUIZZES

Aside from larger announced quizzes, be prepared for a short mini-quiz every Friday. Although there may not be an actual quiz every Friday, be prepared for one! This will require regular review.

LABS:

Lab activities are an integral component of the AP Environmental Science course. Labs will require you to problem solve, analyze, and synthesize information. Many times you will NOT be provided a typical “recipe” for completing the lab, but rather you will formulate the hypothesis and the methods yourself.

- * All lab reports must be typed in order to receive a grade.
- * Read handouts before lab. Time is of the essence! You must be ready to work!
- * There may be times when you will not finish an experiment during the specified class time. *You will need to finish the experiment during study halls or after school on the same day*. Please plan ahead for that possibility on lab days.
- * Store a poncho or similar rainwear along with old sneakers and a hat in your locker. Some labs will require fieldwork, and we will complete that work rain or shine!

FORMAT FOR ASSIGNMENTS:

To be environmentally friendly by conserving paper, all assignments will be typed, single-spaced, in 12 point Times New Roman, with ½ -inch margins on all sides (unless told otherwise).

RECOMMENDED MATERIALS:

You will find it helpful to have the following: 1) 2"-3" binder with filler paper, 2) pencils & pens, 3) flash drive, 4) raingear 5) old sneakers/boots 6) hat

ABSENCE POLICY:

You are required to make up any work that you miss due to absence. *You are responsible for obtaining the work you missed by calling a friend, etc.*

- * You are given twice the number of days that you were absent to complete any work, unless many days notice was given.
- * If you are absent the day of a test but were in school the day before, you will be expected to take the test on the day you return. (Don't expect the same test as the class. Most make-ups are essay) Written assignments are also expected to be completed and submitted on your day of return.
- * Many tests are announced many days in advance. If you are absent on just the day before a test when many days notice was given, you are expected to take the test with the rest of the class.

FIELD TRIPS:

Attendance on field trips is mandatory as they are an essential part of the curriculum. All field trips are scheduled to end in time for sports (but may start early in the morning). Past field trips have been...

- * Schuylkill River Survey Canoe Trip – Oct
- * Mascaró Landfill - March
- * Lansdale Waste Treatment Plant - Dec
- * Covanta Waste to Energy Plant- April

*IMPORTANT- If at the last minute you are going to be absent on a field trip day, you **MUST** call our voicemail and leave a message explaining the situation by 6:00 a.m.

FINAL COMMENT:

AP Environmental Science is a *college level course*. This course will require lots of your time. **Good study habits are necessary!** You will find *nightly reviews* of at least 30-45 minutes *extremely helpful* in achieving a good grade. This class will offer many different learning activities (field trips, guest lecturers, laboratory experiments, field studies, and discussions) that will depend on your *preparation and participation*. We hope, by the end of the year, that you will not only enhance your critical thinking skills, but also become informed citizens who take an active role in your environment.

