FVS Environmental Science A Syllabus

Course Description
Environmental science is a captivating and rapidly expanding field, and this two-semester course offers compelling lessons that cover many different aspects of the field: ecology, the biosphere, land, forests and soil, water, energy and resources, and societies and policy. Through unique activities and material, high school students connect scientific theory and concepts to current, real-world dilemmas, providing them with opportunities for mastery in each of the segments throughout the semester.

Course Objectives

SEV2. Students will demonstrate an understanding that the Earth is one interconnected system. o a. Describe how the abiotic components (water, air, and energy) affect the biosphere. o b. Recognize and give examples of the hierarchy of the biological entities of the biosphere (organisms, populations, communities, ecosystems, and biosphere). o c. Characterize the components that define a Biome. Abiotic Factors – to include precipitation, temperature and soils. Biotic Factors – plant and animal adaptations that create success in that biome. o d. Characterize the components that define fresh-water and marine systems. Abiotic Factors – to include light, dissolved oxygen, phosphorus, nitrogen, pH and substrate. o Biotic Factors – plant and animal adaptations characteristic to that system. o SEV3. Students will describe stability and change in ecosystems. o a. Describe interconnections between abiotic and biotic factors, including normal cyclic fluctuations and changes associated with climatic change (i.e. ice ages). o b. Explain succession in terms of changes in communities through time to include changes in biomass, diversity, and complexity. o c. Explain how succession may be altered by traumatic events. o d. Explain how biotic and abiotic factors influence populations. o e. Describe interactions between individuals (i.e. mutualism, commensalisms, parasitism, predation, and competition). o SEV5. Students will recognize that human beings are part of the global ecosystem and will evaluate the effects of human activities and technology on ecosystems. o a. Describe factors affecting population growth of all organisms, including humans. Relate these to factors affecting growth rates and carrying capacity of the environment. o b. Describe the effects of population growth, demographic tr

Student Expectations
This course requires the same level of commitment from you as a traditional classroom course would. Throughout the course, you are expected to spend approximately 1 hour per day online working on the following activities:
o Interactive lessons that include instructional videos and tasks
o Assignments in which you apply and extend learning in each lesson
o Assessments, including labs, quizzes, tests, and cumulative exams Remember - you are trying to LEARN
and UNDERSTAND from what you are doing. Do what you need to do to help (i.e. take notes, outline, etc.) - don’t just rush through the material. Ask questions when you don’t understand something.

**Communication**
You and your teacher will communicate regularly through email, texts, phone calls, and online meetings (such as Skype). Please check and respond to your messages daily. If you ever have any questions, don’t hesitate to reach out to your teacher.

**Grading Policy**
You will be graded on the work you do online and the work you submit electronically to your teacher. The weighting for each category of graded activity is listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesson Quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Tests</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essays</td>
<td>N/A%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labs</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Assignments</td>
<td>N/A%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative Exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All of the grades that you receive online will be recorded in Edgenuity. To view your grades in Edgenuity, click on: organizer; reports; then, scores and feedback.

**Fulton County Schools Grade Recovery Policy**
Opportunities designed to allow students to recover from a low or failing cumulative grade will be allowed when all work required to date has been completed and the student has demonstrated a legitimate effort to meet all course requirements including attendance. Students should contact the teacher concerning recovery opportunities. Teachers are expected to establish a reasonable time period for recovery work to be completed during the semester. All recovery work must be directly related to course objectives and must be completed ten school days prior to the end of the semester.

**Due Dates**
The Fulton Virtual School’s policy is to allow students to work at an individualized pace in the course. You are expected to work at your own pace and have the course finished by the last day of the class. You are expected to show the same level of commitment as you would in your traditional school setting.
Scope and Sequence

When you log into the Virtual Classroom, you can view the entire course map, which provides a scope and sequence of all topics you will study. Clicking a lesson’s link in the course map leads to a page listing instructional activities, assignments, and learning objectives specific to that lesson. The units of study are summarized below.

Unit 1: Organization of the Environment and Biomes
Unit 2: Populations and Changes in Ecosystems
Unit 3: Matter and Energy in Ecosystems

Georgia Performance Standards

This course is correlated to the Georgia Performance Standards. If you would like more information on the GPS, please visit:

Fulton Virtual School Academic Integrity Policy

In a virtual learning environment, honesty and integrity are integral traits for academic success. At Fulton Virtual, we believe that all students must show integrity in the completion and submission in all aspects of the academic experience. Therefore, no forms of cheating, assisting others in cheating, and/or plagiarism (passing off the work of others as if it is your own) will be tolerated.

When collaboration is necessary to complete tasks and projects, Fulton Virtual School instructors will provide students with advance notice. Thus, all work is considered an individual assignment unless otherwise noted. The following list of dishonest behaviors has been compiled to assist you. This list is by no means exhaustive, and each infraction of academic dishonesty will be handled the virtual instructor on an individual, case-by-case basis.

Dishonest behavior includes, but is not limited to:

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1. Plagiarism. Plagiarism can be defined as the inclusion of another’s ideas, words, expressions, or data in writing or presentation without properly acknowledging the source.

2. Unauthorized use off another person’s password/login. Student logins/passwords are confidential information that should not be shared with others.

3. Cheating. Cheating can be defined as the act or attempted act of deception by which a student seeks to misrepresent his submitted work as uniquely his own completed without assistance. Cheating includes copying another student’s work and submitting it as your own.

4. Impersonation. Performing work or taking an examination for another student or allowing someone to do so for you.

5. Falsification and/or misrepresentation of data. This can be defined as the submission of false or contrived data or sources.

6. Computer crimes. This may include damaging computer programs, hacking, constructing viruses, introducing viruses into a system, copying programs, etc.

**Academic dishonesty will result in one or more of the following actions:**

- Loss of grade points
- Removal from the course
- Failure to receive credit for the course
- Loss of eligibility to earn credits through Fulton Virtual Schools

Fulton Virtual School instructors have the authority to require that students perform other tasks or undergo additional assessments in proctored situations. If a Fulton Virtual School instructor suspects that there is a problem with academic integrity, the administrators of both the local school and Fulton Virtual School will be informed. Failure to follow these guidelines may result in removal from your virtual course without further warning.

**All Fulton Virtual Students Must Agree and Adhere to the Following Academic Integrity Guidelines:**

- I understand and will support and will abide by the guidelines set for in the Fulton Virtual School Academic Integrity Policy.
• I will not personally cheat (i.e., use unauthorized materials in completing my assignments and assessments), and I will not help others cheat.

• If I become aware of anyone else’s cheating or use of unauthorized materials (or any other violations of Fulton Virtual School’s Academic Integrity Policy, I have a personal responsibility to report the matter to an instructor or administrator.