

AP Environmental Science Course Syllabus 2023-2024



Instructor: Mr. Delgado

Contact Information:

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Office hours: I am available most mornings from 7:45 to 8:15am, and after school on Wednesday, if no meetings. If you need help at any other time, please just ask me to arrange a convenient meeting time!

Course Description:

AP Environmental Science is designed to prepare students for the College Board AP Environmental Science Exam. The goal of this inter-disciplinary course is to provide students with the scientific practices required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world. Students are taught methods for identifying and analyzing environmental problems both natural and man-made. Students learn how to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and to identify sustainable solutions for resolving or preventing them. This course adheres to the objectives instituted by the College Board for all AP Environmental Science.

Big Ideas

The following big ideas provide a foundation for the structure of the course and these big ideas spiral across topics and units.

1: Energy transfer; 2: Interactions between earth systems; 3: Interactions between different species and the environment; 4: Sustainability

Science Practices

The following science practices spiral throughout the course:

- Practice 1: Explain environmental concepts, processes, and models
- Practice 2: Analyze visual representations of environmental concepts and processes
- Practice 3: Analyze sources of written information about environmental issues
- Practice 4: Analyze research studies that test environmental principles
- Practice 5: Analyze and interpret quantitative data represented in tables, charts, and graphs
- Practice 6: Apply quantitative methods to address environmental concepts
- Practice 7: Propose and justify solutions to environmental problems

Textbook: The textbook used is *Environmental Science for AP, 3rd edition (2019)* by Friedland and Relyea, 2019, Bedford, Freeman & Worth & Co., ISBN: 131911329X; Replacement cost: \$135.14

To access the online textbook, please log into Class Link, and click on the BFW icon as shown at right.



Primary Supplemental Materials:

AP Classroom (practice quizzes, review videos, etc.), Various news/magazine/journal articles, videos, case studies, relevant internet sites, additional textbooks for reference, lab manuals, and non-fiction books related to environmental science, guest speakers

Course Materials: Students need to keep organized, and need a calculator, index cards, writing utensils and a binder is recommended.

Grade Weights: Major (Tests, projects): 55% Minor (Quizzes, Labs): 35% Practice (Homework/Classwork): 10% Mid-year exam: 0%

Honors Points: The student will receive 7 points added to his or her passing average which will appear in the overall GPA

Grading Scale: A = 90 & Above B = 80-89 C = 70-79 F = 69 & below

Class Structure: The major content areas of the course will be addressed through lectures, labs, projects, activities, case studies, class discussions, cooperative groups, FRQ practice, videos, news articles, web-quests, assigned readings, and outdoor fieldwork. Homework and Classwork will be assigned regularly and assessed as a practice grade. Tests will be given approximately every 2-3 weeks at the end of each unit or partial unit (1-3 chapters). Homework, quizzes, and lab quizzes will be given to help students achieve mastery of the content and to assess understanding of material.

Laboratory/Fieldwork: Through a variety of laboratory work and field investigations, students learn methods for data collection and data interpretation to enhance their understanding of the environment and human impacts on the environment. Students will discuss sustainable ways to manage and solve environmental problems and will make connections to other concepts. Students are encouraged to keep copies of their lab work for use in determining college credit (<http://apcentral.collegeboard.com>).

Student Participation: Students are expected to pay attention and contribute to class discussion, activities, and labs. This includes taking notes. Be an active learner! Do not be afraid to ask questions! If you don't understand something, please ask for help. Our goal is to create a safe space where students feel comfortable sharing their ideas and viewpoints.

Course Framework Topic Content Units (proposed timeline): We will be following the recommended College Board sequence:

Sem	Unit	Topic Title	AP Exam Weighting	Text Chapters (approx.)	# Class periods (approx.)	Test Dates (Tentative)
Fall	0	Intro to AP Environmental Science	----	1, 2	~5-7	Friday 8/18
Fall	1	The Living World – Ecosystems	6-8%	3, 4	~14-15	Wednesday 9/6
Fall	2	The Living World – Biodiversity	6-8%	5, mixed	~11-12	Thursday 9/15
Fall	3	Populations	10-15%	6, 7	~12 -13	Thursday 10/19
Fall	4	Earth Systems and Resources	10-15%	4, 8	~11-12	Thursday 11/6
Fall	5	Land and Water Use	10-15%	10, 11, 20	~18-19 (5A & B)	11/17 & 12/7 (2)
Fall		Mid-year Exam				12/13-12/15
Spring	6	Energy Resources and Consumption	10-15%	12, 13	~16-17	1/29 & 1/30 (MC/FRQ)
Spring	7	Atmospheric Pollution	7-10%	15, 14	~11-12	Thursday 2/13
Spring	8	Aquatic and Terrestrial Pollution	7-10%	14, 16, 17	~19-20 (8A & 8B)	Tuesday 2/29 & 3/19
Spring	9	Global Change	15-20%	15, 18, 19, mixed	~19-20	4/16 (MC/FRQ)
Spring	Exam	Preparing for AP Exam on May 3rd	----	All!	~5-7	Practice Exam TBD

This course will prepare all students to take the AP Environmental Science Exam on Tuesday, April 30, 2024. This 3-hour long exam will consist of a 90-minute Multiple-Choice section with 80 questions, for 60% of the exam score and a 70-minute Free Response section consisting of 3 questions worth 10 points each, focusing on analysis of environmental problems & solutions and experimental design, for 40% of the exam score.

Classroom Expectations

Students are expected to be courteous, responsible, respectful of fellow students and the teacher as well as instructional time in class, and to strive for personal growth and academic achievement. Excellent attendance is required due to the in-depth nature and pace of this course. Students are expected to follow all school rules and behavior guidelines and all rules outlined in the Safety Contract during laboratory and field work. Your cell phone and Chrome book may only be used during class at the discretion of Mr. Delgado. **During testing your cell phone should be set to SILENT and stowed in your assigned numbered pocket of the cell phone holder.** No food or drinks are to be consumed in the classroom with the exception of water, which should be in a container with a sealable top.

- Leaving the Room:** Students must use the time between classes to take care of personal matters. No student may leave the room during the first & last 10 minutes of class. No lining up at the door before the bell rings. A pass and permission are required to leave the room.
- Tardy Policy:** Students must be in their seats and ready to begin when the bell rings. Attendance will be taken during the first 5 minutes of class. The tardy policy **per 9-week period** is:
1st Tardy: Written Reprimand; 2nd Tardy: 1-day Private Detention; 3rd Tardy: Administrative Referral & 2-hour public detention
4th & Subsequent Tardies: Administrative Referral & Titan Opportunity School (2 days, 4 hrs)
- Cellphone Policy:** Students may not use cell phones during class unless explicitly approved on a specific day for instructional purposes by the teacher. Upon entering the classroom, all students must place their cell phone in their assigned pocket # of the classroom's hanging cell phone holder (Non-negotiable). Once placed in the cell phone holder, students may not access during class time without the explicit permission of the teacher on a specific day for instructional purposes. If leaving the classroom to use the restroom, vending machine, etc., cell phones must remain in the classroom holder; students are not allowed to bring phones with them. If a student refuses to follow school and district cell phone rules, I will (1) remind the student of the rule, (2) notify the parent/guardian via email that the student is not following the rule, (3) assign a detention, and (4) submit a behavior referral to the appropriate administrator. At the administrator's discretion, the student's cell phone may be confiscated and returned only to a parent/guardian. Further disciplinary consequences may be assigned depending on the circumstances.
Cell Phone Policy - Tiered System
1st Offense: Teacher Warning. Teacher keeps phone for remainder of period. Parent contact (email). If student refuses, office referral.
2nd Offense: Teacher will collect phone from student and take it to the front office - student name to phone. Student gets phone from the front office at 3:30 pm. If student refuses, office referral.
3rd Offense and Beyond: Office Referral (Tier 2 Offense): Teacher collects phone from student and give to their administrator -student name to phone. Parents gets phone from the administrator. If student refuses, office referral. Administrator advises parents phone should not be in the building Classroom Procedures. Teachers can continue to use cubbies or pocket charts for phones.
- Honor Code:** As explained in the student handbook, cheating is defined as "the giving or receiving, in any form, information relating to a gradable experience." Cheating is any act whose intent is to gain reward or success that is not honestly earned. Plagiarism is the presentation of materials as ones' own effort when it is actually the work of another. Violations of the Honor Code will result in a zero for the assignment and referral to the proper administrator for disciplinary action, refer to student handbook.

5. **Northview High School Recovery Procedure: (Revised this year):** Please reference the Northview High School Student/Parent Handbook for 2023-2024. This policy will be strictly enforced. It is summarized as follows:
- All major assessments are eligible for recovery if they score below a 75%. 1 recovery attempt per major assessment. Recovery should occur before the next major assessment. Teachers may require that all missing work be submitted and/or students attend remediation session(s) prior to completing recovery.
 - If a student will be absent three or more days (including OSS), the student or parents will be instructed to contact the teachers directly via email. Any material that cannot be forwarded electronically from the teacher to the parent should be ready for pick-up in the front office at the end of the following day. (Please let the parents know that the material is there.) There is a file cabinet in the teacher mailroom where material to be picked up will be stored. All materials should be clearly labeled with the student's first and last name and the teacher's name.
 - Incompletes will be given at the discretion of the principal.
 - Infinite Campus – Student progress and performance can be viewed through Infinite Campus - Infinite Campus / Program Overview (fultonschools.org).
6. **Late Work:** All work is due at the beginning of class on the date it is due. A zero will be entered in the gradebook until the assignment/assessment is completed. Much of the daily homework is handled through the class textbook. Typically, several days are given to complete assignments, so it is unlikely that a student should turn it in late. It is the student's responsibility to complete and submit their work online by the due date and time. Work submitted after the due date but before the end of the unit will receive a 15% deduction. Work submitted after the end of the unit will receive a 25% deduction. This is Northview HS Policy. For instance, if a student is present in-class but does not turn in an assignment by the due date, he/she will receive a grade of zero in the gradebook until the assignment is submitted. Upon submission, teachers will deduct 15% of the assignment grade if the assignment is turned in past the due date. This will be calculated by multiplying the actual grade earned by 0.85. For example, if a student earned a 90% on a project but the project was turned in past the due date, the student would receive a 77% (90×0.85). If a student fails to turn in a late or missing assignment by the end of the unit, teachers will enter a zero for the assignment in the gradebook. Teachers will deduct 25% of the assignment grade if the assignment is turned in past the end of unit major assessment. This will be calculated by multiplying the actual grade earned by 0.75. For example, if a student earned a 90% on a project but the project was turned in past the end of unit major assessment, the student would receive a 68% (90×0.75).
7. **Make-Up Work Policy** You are responsible for making up all missed work. All assignments and notes will be posted on Teams/Canvas for you to print out and complete at home if absent. Make-up work is to be handed directly to the teacher. If you are out the day of a test, lab or scheduled quiz, a grade of zero will be entered. This will be changed when the assignment is made up. Published scheduled assessments will be given upon return from absence. Refusal to take an assessment will result in a zero, with no recovery opportunity. If a student misses 1 or more days of instruction prior to the assessment, the student will have an equal number of days as they were absent to take the assessment. Assignments assigned prior to the absence, including tests/quizzes scheduled for the day of return, are generally due upon the student's return. Students who are present for any portion of the school day are expected to turn in all assignments due on that day to receive full credit. Failure to complete make-up work within the designated time frame will result in a grade reduction and/or loss of credit for the assignment.