

"I SPEAK FOR THE TREES!"



AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE COURSE SYLLABUS

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Room 45

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ABOUT THE COURSE

AP Environmental Science combines ideas and information from biology, chemistry and earth sciences, as well as the social science fields of economics and political science. Topics of study include water, energy, air and chemical cycles and systems, soil and biome processes, population and land development dynamics, human history and influences, community and ecosystem processes, natural resource exploitation and impacts, environmental economics and policy, and future choices.

Laboratory, field and internet-based research and investigations are emphasized to familiarize students with contemporary research, investigative and problem-solving techniques. Students analyze environmental problems, evaluate risks, collect data, prepare assessments, and investigate complex issues and solutions to prevent, resolve or mitigate environmental problems. Extensive field investigations, field trips and problem-solving exercises will focus on in-depth analysis of specific environmental topics and issues.

THEMES OF APES

AP Environmental Science focuses on six unifying themes set by the College Board. These themes will be integrated throughout the course:

- I. Science is a process.
- II. Energy conversions underlie all ecological processes.
- III. The Earth itself is one interconnected system.
- IV. Humans alter natural systems.
- V. Environmental problems have a cultural and social context.
- VI. Human survival depends on developing practices that will achieve sustainable systems.



COURSE MATERIALS

- Text: Environmental Science: A Global Concern 12th/AP Edition
- Other reading materials will be provided as needed.
- Notebook/composition book for performance activities and exam corrections
- Regular school supplies (pens, paper, etc.)
- A way to keep yourself organized

CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments are broken down into 4 categories: Daily Practice, Performance Activities, Annotated Bibliography, and Exams, Quizzes, and FRQs



1. **Daily Practice: 10%** of overall grade and includes homework, class work, text assignments, and class participation

2. **Performance Activities: 20%** of overall grade and includes labs, class activities, group projects, class presentations, and environmental outreach (all performance activities will be recorded and summarized in a notebook/composition book)

You are required complete 5 hours of community outreach by the end of May. Examples of community outreach include open area clean up, beautification projects, habitat restoration, tree planting, and many more. A full list of outreach opportunities will be available in class. Students will need to show proof of the activity and create a presentation to the class. Presentations should include pictures taken during the activity and a written summary of how the activity related to this course.

3. **Annotated Bibliography: 20%** of overall grade and includes 5 detailed article summaries to be turned in 3 times throughout the year (Oct, Jan, and March). You will select a single topic to become an expert on. In April you will create a review sheet for the class using the 15 articles you summarized along with a class presentation. Exact dates and a detailed description of assignment will be provided separately.

4. **Exams, Quizzes, and FRQs: 50%** of overall grade and includes final exams as well. You can expect to have regular quizzes and FRQs every other week and exams at the end of each unit. FRQ and quiz grades are final, but you will be allowed to do exam corrections for ½ points. Corrections must be made using complete sentences and be done by hand in your notebook/composition book.

Grading Scale

100% & ↑ = A+	87-89% = B+	77-79% = C+	67-69% = D+	54%&↓ = F
93-99% = A	83-86% = B	73-76% = C	63-66% = D	
90-92% = A-	80-82% = B-	70-72% = C-	55-62% = D-	

Late Work Policy: In order to keep up in this course, it is imperative that all work is complete and on time. Students will be given partial credit for any and all late work with in the 6-week grading period. Work will not be accepted once the grading period has closed.

* **Academic Dishonesty:** All cases of cheating and plagiarism will result in an automatic 0 for the assignment and will be dealt with according to the Lincoln Handbook.