

AP Environmental Science Syllabus

2017-2018 | Mr. Thompson

Course Objectives:

- **Science is a process.**
 - Science is a method of learning more about the world.
 - Science constantly changes the way we understand the world.
- **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.
- **The Earth itself is one interconnected system.**
 - Natural systems change over time and space.
 - Biogeochemical systems vary in ability to recover from disturbances.
- **Humans alter natural systems.**
 - Humans 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.
- **Environmental problems have a cultural and social context.**
 - Understanding the role of cultural, social, and economic factors is vital to the development of solutions.
- **Human survival depends on developing practices that will achieve sustainable systems.**
 - A suitable combination of conservation and development is required.
 - Management of common resources is essential.

Required Materials:

Each student will need the following required materials each day without exception. Failure to bring any of these items will result in loss of daily points.

- (1) Pencil or Pen (blue/black ONLY)
- (2) Notebook/binder that allows you to secure/remove assignments.
- (3) Colored pencils (VERY important), highlighters
- (4) Graph Paper
- (5) AP Environmental Textbook
- (6) Calculator: not required and not allowed on AP exam. You may use, but we will practice without it!

Tentative Weekly Plan and Pacing Guide:

Week 1 – Renewable/Nonrenewable Energy	Week 10 – Land Use, Agriculture, Forestry
Week 2 – Energy Calculations	Week 11 – Beaches, Marshes, Aquatics, Water Laws
Week 3 – Geologic Time, Rocks, Tectonics	Week 12 – Atmosphere, Ozone, Pollution
Week 4 – Soils, Biomes	Week 13 – Pollution, Landfills, Hazardous Waste
Week 5 – Ecosystems, Food Webs, Energy Flow	Week 14 – Global Laws/Policy, Waste Management
Week 6 – Endangered, Invasive, Biomes	Week 15 – Pests, Toxicity, Chemical Impacts and Graphing
Week 7 – Carbon, Nitrogen, Phosphorous, Water	Week 16 – Review, Projects
Week 8 – Nutrients, Climates, Ozone, Warming	Week 17 – Review, Projects
Week 9 – Population Growth and Math	Week 18 – Review, Projects

Rules & Consequences:

Classroom Rules: BE PRODUCTIVE AND NOT DISRUPTIVE!

1. Be on time and prepared to work
2. Respect yourself and others.
3. Abide by school code of conduct.
4. Follow school dress code at all times. Referrals to office for 2nd opinions are free.
5. *Students will meet & exceed all expectations!*

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Classroom Consequences: *All consequences come with a free call home.*

- 1st offense – Verbal Warning
- 2nd offense – Behavior intervention plan
- 3rd offense – Detention
- 4th offense – Office Referral

Steps in the consequence sequence can be changed based on the severity of the offense. Detentions are to be completed within one week. Once a detention has been assigned the date cannot be changed unless Mr. Thompson is contacted by a parent.

Grading Details...

Coursework - 20%: Daily assignments from the book, internet, video reviews, practice problems, minor lab practice, etc. Graded on a 1-5 scale for effort and completion. Assignments not attempted will receive a grade of “0”. All practice work will be checked for completion and understanding. The final deadline for all Assignments is the date of the assessment (quiz/test) that applies to the work. No work will be accepted after the applicable assessment has been given.

Quizzes – 20%: Quizzes, mid-unit assessments, knowledge interviews, demonstrations of understanding. Graded on a 1-5 scale. Assessments not taken are assigned a grade of “0”. Each assessment may be retaken once pending completion of suggested work.

Tests – 40%: Tests, unit assessments. Graded on a 1-5 scale. Assessments not taken are assigned a grade of “0”. Each assessment may be retaken once pending completion of suggested work.

Projects/Labs – 20%: Practical applications of knowledge. In class we call them labs, outside of class we call them projects. Graded on a 1-5 scale. Projects not turned in and labs not completed are assigned a grade of “0”. Each assessment may be retaken once pending completion of suggested work.

Total - 100%

Additional progress reports and direct parental notification may be given to each student with a D or lower.

Extra Help:

In order to ensure that every student *meets and exceeds the expectations* laid before them I will provide many opportunities for tutoring. In the event that a student cannot come to regular weekly tutoring, I will gladly work out special arrangements. Students who are willing to assist in tutoring peers will qualify for extra credit.

Absences & Late Assignments:

Absent Work

According to school policy, students who have excused absences will be allowed 3 (THREE) days to make up any work missed due to the absence. Upon returning from an absence the student is to consult his/her peers and the homework calendar to see what homework they missed. Students who follow proper absence procedure will be allowed 3 (THREE) days to make up missed work and return it for full credit. Under no circumstances are students to ask Mr. Thompson about missed assignments during instructional time. Approved field trips are not traditional absences and work from missed classes must be turned in prior to the field trip, or on the day following the missed class, pending discussion with Mr. Thompson.

Late Work

Turn in work digitally as soon as it is complete and asked for. Do not wait for the due date to turn in many assignments, it is a

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recipe for disaster. Please trust me on that. Turn in whatever assignments you have completed from the batch that is due; incomplete is better than nothing. After the quiz/test date, late coursework will be marked down -40%.