

## AP Environmental Science Course Guidelines

Course Objectives: This course is designed to provide an introduction to the sciences used in understanding the workings of our environment and human interactions with it. We hope this understanding will give students a greater appreciation for and better stewardship of the world in which they live.

### **The texts:**

1. Living in the Environment, Miller and Spoolman, 17<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2012, Brooks/Cole, ISBN-13: 978-0-538-49383-3
2. AP Environmental Science Course Supplement

### **Grading:**

60%	=	Tests (includes an online reading quiz)
20%	=	Lab and Worksheet Quizzes
5%	=	Pop-Reading Quiz
15%	=	Winter Exam

**Tests** will consist of approximately 30 multiple choice questions and written response questions. The multiple choice section should take approximately 2/3 of the test time and the written response section 1/3 of the test time. An important note about test questions: Be patient with multiple choice questions and write specific yet to the point written responses.

Also included in the test score will be a textbook online reading quiz of approximately 10-20 questions. These may be due before or after the date of the Unit test and are open book. Students are allowed to use any resource they choose **AS LONG AS THEY DO NOT COLLABORATE WITH PEERS. ANY COLLABORATION IS CONSIDERED A SERIOUS HONOR CODE VIOLATION AND WILL HAVE SEVERE CONSEQUENCES.**

**Make-up Test Policy:** If you are absent during the day of a test and have not made previous arrangements with your teacher, you will be required to take a make-up test at the end of the quarter. The make-up tests cover the most essential concepts of **each unit covered for the quarter**, yet are still only 45 minute tests. Students that prepare diligently throughout the year find that these tests are comparable in difficulty to regular unit tests. Students that “cram” for tests find the make-up tests very difficult.

### **Make-up Test Dates:**

**1<sup>st</sup> qtr – Monday, November 5<sup>th</sup>**

**2<sup>nd</sup> qtr – Monday, January 14<sup>th</sup>**

**3<sup>rd</sup> qtr – Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>**

**4<sup>th</sup> qtr – Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Lab and Worksheet Quizzes** will be given in class towards the end of each unit. Have all of your homework and labs completed by the day of the quiz. Your teacher may allow you to use your work in an open-book format and/or may collect the work as well. That said, if you haven't completed the homework and labs thoughtfully, it won't be of use to you even if you are allowed to look at your answers. Generally, you will not be allowed to share data, graphs, or other analyses with classmates. Always ask your teacher before sharing any work with your peers.

**Make-up Lab and Homework Quizzes** must be completed on your 1<sup>st</sup> day back to school following your absence.

**Pop Reading quizzes** will be given periodically to test reading retention. They may be given at any time after the date of assigned readings.

The **Winter Exam** is similar in format to the tests except that it is longer and makes an attempt to codify and unite multiple themes and concepts covered throughout the semester. If you have prepared carefully for each unit, (and not "crammed" in the information), the exam can be a chance for you to demonstrate how smart you are.

There is no **Extra Credit** in AP Environmental Science. Extra credit was cool in middle school. Now, extra work will provide its own reward- you learn more.

**Attendance** is expected to be prompt and nothing else. If you have to, run to class. Exercise is good for you.

If you have a legitimate reason to miss class, let your teacher know as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made. All APES teachers are understanding people as long as they have ample warning.

Since we will be frequently using materials from your APES supplemental packet, please bring the relevant materials with you to class every day.

## PLAGIARISM

This is an issue we take very seriously in Environmental Science.

Plagiarism is the presentation of another person's words or ideas as your own. This includes copying someone else's homework, lab data, lab conclusions, or copying directly out of the text. Be aware that the copying does not have to be word-for-word to be considered plagiarism. Since you will routinely manipulate lab data collected by the entire class, individual student's graphs are expected to be similar. However, each student is required to make his/her own graphs from a common set of class Data/Results.

**Do not work with a partner and simply print two copies of the same graph. Make your own graphs.**

Exercising your brain enhances your personal and developmental growth. It may not always be easy, but you will learn more, and you will make longer lasting connections, if you figure out the answers to problems or puzzles on your own. However, not everyone is going to see the solutions or connections that solve every problem presented to them. It seems reasonable that you will sometimes need to discuss information from an assignment or results from a particular lab exercise with a peer. Discussion for the purpose of understanding elements of a problem is fine, but it is **not a one-sided conversation** that supplies you with an answer. Furthermore, discussion precedes answering the question; it does not coincide with it. **When you physically sit down to write your response, you do it alone.**

In this class, we have online multiple choice questions. You may work on these with your text book or notes open, but you must **not** work with your peers on the quiz. Do it alone. Do not compare your work with your classmates. Do not discuss the quiz outside of class.

All incidents of plagiarism, as well as other forms of cheating, will be immediately reported to your dean, the prefect council, and the Head of Upper School. No credit will be given for plagiarized work.

Please acknowledge that you have read the Course Syllabus and Guidelines by printing and signing below.

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(printed name)

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(signature)