

AP Environmental Science Syllabus/2012-2013/Mrs. Ahmed

Website: <https://cynthiaahmed.wikispaces.com/> (contains daily plan page and book website)

Course Goal: To help you learn to understand, appreciate, and respect our environment and its complexity. It is believed with the knowledge gained you will be better prepared to critically consider environmental decisions throughout your life. You should also, at completion of the course, be prepared to sit for the AP exam.

Supplies: (what you need to bring to class each day)

- Text: Environmental Science for AP (Friedland, Relyea, and Courard-Hauri)
- Pocket Folder (Vocabulary Quizzes, Tests/must be kept for ENTIRE year/due at end of 2nd semester)
- Computer access from home
- Something to take notes in (spiral or binder)
- Pencils (all quizzes and tests), Pens (optional for class notes)
- Calculator with scientific notation capability (will not be allowed for exams)
- Thick skin (many will have opinions different than your own)
- Positive Attitude (we need to listen to others so we can understand their opinions—even if you don't agree!)

Course Content:

Chapter		
Ch. 1: Studying the State of Our Earth		Ch. 11: Feeding the World
Ch. 2: Environmental Systems		Ch. 12: Nonrenewable Energy Sources
Ch. 3: Ecosystem Ecology		Ch. 13: Achieving Energy Sustainability
Ch. 4: Global Climates and Biomes		Ch. 14: Water Pollution
Ch. 5: Evolution and Biodiversity		Ch. 15: Air Pollution and Stratospheric Ozone Depletion
Ch. 6: Population and Community Ecology		Ch. 16: Waste Generation and Water Disposal
Ch. 7: The Human Population		Ch. 17: Human Health and Environmental Risks
Ch. 8: Earth Systems		Ch. 18: Conservation of Biodiversity
Ch. 9: Water Resources		Ch. 19: Global Change
Ch. 10: Land, Public and Private		Ch. 20: Sustainability, Economics, and Equity

Grade Breakdown:

Quarterly

25% Homework

25% Quizzes

50% Tests/Labs

Semester

40% First Semester

40% Second Semester

20% (Final Exam)

General Policies:

- Drinks are allowed in the classroom, but not in lab. All containers should be recycled, reusable containers preferred.
- For block classes, breaks will be given on most days so please wait for them.
- **Late Policy:** Any late assignment or lab report is subject to a 20% deduction and will be accepted only one period past the due date.

Types of Assignments:

Laboratory Exercises

Field and laboratory work are critical in an environmental science course. At times, this may require sample gathering or data checks outside of the normal class period. Some of this work may serve as IB Internal Assessments. Points may be earned from daily logs (composition notebooks) as well as written reports.

Writing Assignments

One of the most essential skills for a student who graduates high school is the ability to communicate properly through writing. This includes using proper grammar, spelling, formatting, organization skills, etc. Writing assignments will be given periodically in addition to the written lab reports. These may include, but will not be limited to: questions and answers, summaries or reflections on readings, essay questions, and current event summaries.

Periodical Reviews

The ability to read and understand scientific literature is an important component of most science classes and will aid in the understanding of topics presented in class. Students may review any article from a current scientific journal pertaining to environmental science. A look at the course outline will help to determine which content is acceptable. Students will be provided with specifications at the beginning of this assignment. Periodical reviews are typically assigned quarterly. In addition, presentations or sharing of information with class members is often required.

In Case of Absence:

Check “plan page” to see what assignment is due the next class. If a test or quiz is scheduled, be prepared for it.

If a lab is missed, be sure to schedule a make-up time as soon as possible.

Labs and or tests will most likely need to be made up outside of the school day.

Helpful Hint: The most important thing one may do to be successful in the class is to ATTEND class EVERY day!

Extra Help/Tutoring/Parent Conferences:

Extra help is often available after school or during lunch. Please send me an e-mail or stop by and ask for an available time slot if you are interested. I would much rather help you SOONER rather than later! Parents can e-mail with any concerns or call the school (421-1820) to set up a conference.