

## AP Environmental Science Syllabus/2017-2018/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: Environment: the science behind the stories (Withgott and Laposata)
- Folder or Binder (vocab. quizzes, tests, focus questions must be kept for ENTIRE year (due end of 2<sup>nd</sup> 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:

Ch. 1: Science and Sustainability: An Introduction to Environmental Science	Ch. 13: The Urban Environment: Creating Sustainable Cities
Ch. 2: Earth's Physical Systems: Matter, Energy, and Geology	Ch. 14: Environmental Health and Toxicology
Ch. 3: Evolution, Biodiversity, and Population Ecology	Ch. 15: Freshwater Systems and Resources
Ch. 4: Species Interactions and community Ecology	Ch. 16: Marine and Coastal Systems and Resources
Ch. 5: Environmental Systems and Ecosystem Ecology	Ch. 17: the Atmosphere, Air Quality, and Pollution Control
Ch. 6: Ethics, Economics, and Sustainable Development	Ch. 18: Global Climate
Ch. 7: Environmental Policy: Making Decisions and Solving Problems	Ch. 19: Fossil Fuels: Sources, Uses, Impacts, and Conservation
Ch. 8: Human Population	Ch. 20: Conventional Energy Alternatives
Ch. 9: The Underpinnings of Agriculture	Ch. 21: New Renewable Energy Alternatives
Ch. 10: Making Agriculture Sustainable	Ch. 22: Managing Our Waste
Ch. 11: Biodiversity and Conservation Biology	Ch. 23: Minerals and Mining
Ch. 12: Forests, Forest Management, and Protected Areas	Ch. 24: Sustainable Solutions

### Grade Breakdown:

#### Quarterly

25% Homework

25% Quizzes

50% Tests/Labs

#### Semester

40% First Quarter

40% Second Quarter

20% (Final Exam)

## General Policies:

- Drinks (with the exception of energy drinks) are allowed in the classroom, but not in lab. All containers should be reusable or recyclable.
- **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:

If you must be absent, be **RESPONSIBLY ABSENT!** This means:

- Check the “plan page” to see what assignment is due the next class. If it is a quiz or a test, prepare for it.
- If a test or quiz is missed, email your teacher to schedule a make-up time as soon as possible. (preferably this will be made up before the next class meeting) Expect labs or tests to be made up outside of the school day.
- Email or come in on the first day back either before or after school (not at the start of your next APES class) to get any handouts that may have been passed out. Borrow notes from a friend and copy them down before the next class. Come and speak with your teacher either before or after school if anything is not clear.

## 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 are welcome to e-mail with any concerns or call the school (421-1820) to set up a conference.

