

## SFMHS AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE 2014-2015

Instructor: Kati Morris

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### **Course Description**

Advanced Placement Environmental Science (APES) is designed to be the equivalent of an introductory environmental science college course. The goal is to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made, and to evaluate the risks associated with these problems and examine alternative solutions for resolving and/or preventing them. The course covers human population dynamics, interrelationships in nature, energy flow, resources, environmental quality, human impact on environmental systems, and environmental law.

Students will also learn more about one of the final steps in the scientific method of inquiry – sharing investigations and discoveries with others. To this end, students will regularly read and write about a variety of science-related topics. The class will analyze science articles for validity and bias, determine what the author intends to accomplish with the publication, make connections between the article and other publications/topics, and speculate on the ramifications of the given subject matter. Students will also practice their scientific communication skills through formal lab reports.

The APES national exam consists of two 90-minute parts, given sequentially during one morning in May. The first part is 100 multiple choice questions, with no penalty for guessing. The second is four free response questions, each with multiple parts. Math skills are required for both parts. Students CANNOT use a calculator of any kind during the exam. The national exam will be given at school on Monday, May 4, 2015, at 8 am. Students will find out their final score through their online account in early July 2015. Each college/university awards credit for AP scores differently, so check with the institutions of your choice for more information regarding these details. The website is <https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/creditandplacement/search-credit-policies>

The course has a degree of rigor and focus that will prepare students for both other advanced high school science courses and college-level science classes. It is expected that both students and instructor approach the subject matter with a level of discipline and attention to detail that will lead to these results.

**Textbooks:** *Environment: The Science Behind the Stories*, by Jay Withgott and Scott Brennan, Third AP Edition  
*The Cartoon Guide to the Environment* by Larry Gonick and Alice Outwater  
*Environmental Science, Second Edition* by The Biozone Writing Team (a Biology Modular Workbook)

### **Required Materials**

- Dedicated notebook for vocabulary, writing prompts, and chapter/unit summaries – this will become the cumulative review document. Expect to leave the notebook with your instructor overnight or for several days.
- Pen, pencil, notebook paper
- Access to a computer for electronic submission of some assignments

- NO CALCULATORS

### **Behavior Expectations**

- Be on time.
- Be respectful.
- Be prepared.
- Adhere to classroom, departmental, and school rules and procedures.

### **Assignments and Assessments**

- The class is designed as a “flipped” classroom, which means much of the frontloading of information (whether delivered through readings, videos, or powerpoints) will be done at home. This will leave class time free for practice and labs/simulations. Thus, your success will be based on internal motivation, consistency and work ethic.
- Any assignment not due at the end of class becomes homework due the next class.
- Overnight assignments are due into the designated area within two minutes of the final bell. Late work will not be accepted unless prior arrangements have already been made. This may require additional work.
- Regular feedback is essential for success, so expect that you will be demonstrating your grasp of information and technique each and every class through some sort of assessment.
- A final exam that will mirror the expectations of the exam will be given on a Saturday in late April. This exam is your final exam grade, and will provide important data about your areas of strength and weakness that will help you pinpoint what you need to review as the exam approaches.

### **Academic Integrity**

Any student who is caught copying another student’s work or plagiarizing other authors’ works (this includes cutting and pasting from the internet) will receive an automatic zero on the assignment in question and will result in a discipline referral and parental contact.

### **Absences**

- Students can expect that new material and an assessment will be given every day of class, making attendance a key part of success in this class.
- Students with excused absences will receive the mandated amount of time to make up work without penalty.
- YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR MAKE UP WORK. Check in with your teacher either before class begins or during individual work time for the missed work.
- You are expected to “catch up” on direct instruction either before or after school.
- If you miss an assessment, expect to take it the day you return. This will mean that you will then need to make up the material you missed while taking the assessment.
- Missing a review day will not excuse you from the test, as you have missed no new material.
- Labs must be made up within the mandated makeup time either after school during a scheduled session or through an alternate assignment.

## **Assistance and Communication**

This course may require time and effort outside of the classroom for complete comprehension. There are many ways to get help, keep track of what has been covered, and anticipate what will come next. Following are some ways to make your time in this class successful:

- Your instructor will be available for afterschool tutoring. Specific times and dates will be announced.
- The class website will go live near the beginning of the first quarter of school. It will contain items like copies of all handouts (as .pdf's), a projected schedule, a firm schedule of what was covered, links to additional practice material, and any other items which can enhance your time in this class. This is the site to visit if you are absent, or if you lose your assignment so you can reprint it.
- A course description can be found at [http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/public/courses/teachers\\_corner/2128.html](http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/public/courses/teachers_corner/2128.html). Additional useful course information can be found at [http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/public/exam/exam\\_information/2003.html](http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/public/exam/exam_information/2003.html).
- You can reach your instructor directly at 239/561-0060 during school hours, or online at [katherinem@leeschools.net](mailto:katherinem@leeschools.net). Your instructor will answer emails and calls within one business day.

## **Grading**

40% - Multiple choice quizzes and tests

30% - Written assignments (FRQs, projects, etc.)

20% - Lab/simulations (pre-lab quizzes, data analysis/conclusions, etc.)

10% - Practice and participation: includes bellringers/exit tickets, classwork, participation/conduct, notebook checks, etc.

## **Gradebook**

Parents and students are able to check the student's grade through ParentLink, at

<http://parentlink.leeschools.net/> If you need assistance accessing ParentLink, please contact the school. While monitoring grades, keep the following in mind:

- Z = a missing assignment due to absence. There is a date given in the "notes" section for that grade, denoting the last day makeup work will be accepted. After that date, the grade becomes a 0.
- X = an assignment that does not have to be made up, and will not count against the final grade.
- 0 = an assignment with a score of zero
- blank (nothing there) = an assignment that is being graded, or has not been given yet