# AP Environmental Science Syllabus

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Environmental Science Teacher

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**Office Hours/Tutoring:** Wednesday until 3:00 PM or by appointment

**Communication:** Email is the primary and preferred method of communication. Any emergency communication must go through the Main Office - 706-772-8140

**AP Environmental Science Course Description:** Environmental Science standards integrate the study of many components of our environment, including the human impact on our planet. Students investigate the flow of energy and cycling of matter within ecosystems, and evaluate types, availability, allocation, and sustainability of energy resources. Instruction focuses on student data collection and analysis from field and laboratory experiences. Some concepts are global; in those cases, we will interpret global data sets from scientific sources. Chemistry, physics, mathematical, and technological concepts will be integrated throughout the course, along with careers related to environmental science (Georgia DOE).

Advanced Placement Environmental Science breaks up the material into four big ideas:

* Big Idea 1: Energy Transfer
* Big Idea 2: Interactions Between Earth Systems
* Big Idea 3: Interactions Between Different Species and the Environment
* Big Idea 4: Sustainability

… over nine units (and the weight on the AP exam):

* Unit 1: The Living World: Ecosystems (6–8%)
* Unit 2: The Living World: Biodiversity (6–8%)
* Unit 3: Populations (10–15%)
* Unit 4: Earth Systems and Resources (10–15%)
* Unit 5: Land and Water Use (10–15%)
* Unit 6: Energy Resources and Consumption (10–15%)
* Unit 7: Atmospheric Pollution (7–10%)
* Unit 8: Aquatic and Terrestrial Pollution (7–10%)
* Unit 9: Global Change (15–20%)

Students will demonstrate mastery of the concepts using two primary methods, selecting the correct answer in multiple choice questions (MCQs) and writing answers to free response questions (FRQs).

**Textbook:** Withgott, J., & Laposata, M. (2021). *Environment: the science behind the stories* (7th Ed, AP Ed ed.). New York: Pearson.

**Classroom Expectations:**

**Be on-time and prepared to participate.** This means students will be in their seats ready to engage in the assignment when the bell rings.

**Be respectful to all members of the classroom.** Common courtesy is expected from all people in the classroom.

**All laboratory safety procedures and rules must be followed**. This is not negotiable; failure to follow safety rules is considered a serious offense and will result in immediate removal from the activity and loss of the grade (NO CREDIT).

**All county and school policies will be enforced.**

**Cells phones, tablets and headphones are not allowed without direct permission.**

**No personal hygiene products may be used *in the room*.**

**Grading Policy**

*Grades are viewable in Infinite Campus with the following categories and weights:*

* *Minor – 60%*

*Ex: Classwork, Participation, learning the content and more.*

* *Major – 40%*

*Ex: Quizzes, Tests, Projects, proving you know it.*

*Because students are expected to master the content, grade recovery will be ongoing throughout the school year as each module is completed. Academic dishonesty (cheating) will result in the student receiving NO CREDIT for that graded item and can result in disciplinary action. The grade will have to be recovered during afterschool tutoring hours with an alternate assignment ​*

***Make-up work:*** *Classwork will be found in Canvas and/or AP Classroom (most assignments will be in AP Classroom). All students will have access to the assignments as soon as they are posted. Therefore, all students returning from absences will be expected to turn in the missed work within 5 days of returning.*

***Test Retake Policy***: Students may retake a test if they are unhappy with their grade. To qualify, a student must create a “Plan to Relearn,” laying out what they plan to do in order to better prepare for their retake. If you score higher on the retake, scores on the unit’s quizzes and tests will be replaced with that score.

***Academic Rigor****:* This class is a college level course, so an increased difficulty level and workload is to be expected. Homework will not always be assigned, but when it is, should take up no more than 45 minutes any given night. I want to prepare my students for college without overloading them. Every assignment will have purpose.

**Final Exam (Friday, May 15th, 2026 8am):** The AP exam determines whether you earn college credit for the class (provided the college/university you attend accepts AP credits). The exam will contain multiple choice questions (MCQs) and free response questions about every unit we cover during the semester.

**Materials:**

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| --- | --- |
| Required materials | Suggested material |
| * Computer (school issued preferred) * Writing implement (pen/pencil; pen preferred) * Composition book (college ruled) * three ring binder and paper (college ruled) | * Colored pencils or fine point markers * Graph Paper * Index cards * Highlighers |

**Lab Safety:**

* Read and follow directions first!
* NO FOOD OR DRINK IN LAB
* Know the location of safety equipment
* Dress for the lab
* Don't taste or sniff chemicals
* Don't play mad scientist in the laboratory
* Dispose of lab waste properly
* Know what to do with lab accidents
* Leave experiments at the Lab
* No horseplay!

***PASSES OUT OF CLASS ARE FOR EMERGENCIES ONLY! ABUSE WILL RESULT IN LOSS OF PRIVILEDGE!***

*This syllabus is subject to change if required.*

*Students will be supplied with an updated syllabus one school week prior to changes being implemented.*

**Expectations of a Science Student​**

* Follow all established rules. ​
* Be willing to make mistakes so you can learn from them. ​
* Review course materials regularly. ​
* Be willing to push your own boundaries every day. ​
* Be inquisitive…ask questions, ask questions, ask questions!

*We are always in need of the following for our class: ​*

* Tissues​
* Colored copy paper​
* White school glue​
* Colored pencils​
* Pencils​
* Clorox wipes​
* Paper towels​
* Magic Erasers©​