

STEM/APES Course Outline: Mr. Town

Course Description: In a word, this course is interdisciplinary, involving the field of ecology, biology, ocean and atmospheric sciences, climatology, chemistry, geology, physics, toxicology, geography, economics, politics, and ethics, to name a few. Because of this blend of subject matter, this course is often perceived as a class somewhat different from what any students have encountered in their previous coursework. This course is designed to be the equivalent of a college introductory environmental science course, both in the range of topics studied, and in the depth, specificity and detail of course material. The goals of the AP Environmental Science course are to (1) provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships in the natural world, (2) to identify and analyze environmental problems or challenges (both natural and human-made), (3) to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and (4) to examine alternative solutions for resolving and/or preventing them.

Grading: Your grade will be determined by the total percentage of the points you have accumulated. Current grades will be posted on skyward. Tests will be graded approximately three to four days after the test date. It is your responsibility to make sure the grade is correct. The following grading scale will be used.

A	100-90	C	76-73
B+	89-87	C-	72-70
B	86-83	NC	69-0
B-	82-80		
C+	79-77		

Grading by points:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>% Grade (approx.)</u>
Tests-100 pts. Each	50%
Semester final-200 pts.	20%
Quizzes, homework, notebook informal labs (approx 50 pts/unit)	30%

******Note:** there are no test retakes in this class.

Tests: You will usually be given at least two days notice prior to a test. If you are present during a test or quiz, you are required to take the test. Missing the review 1-day prior to the test does not excuse you from taking the test on the day it is scheduled. The only exception is a multiple day absence that prevented you from knowing the actual test day.

Homework: Homework is due at the beginning of the period on the due date. Late papers will be graded down 50%. Any paper that is more than one day late will only be accepted with notebook. Article reviews are due at the beginning of each class period on Fridays.

Help: If you need help, you can come in to see me after school. Be prepared to ask specific questions. My OFFICE HOURS are 6:30-7:30 every morning

Absences: To receive credit for a missed lab the lab must be made up. Generally 2 days are given for make-ups. NOTE! Copying data from lab partners will not be allowed for lab absences.

Punctuality: Class will begin promptly at the period bell. It is expected that you will be seated quietly, notebook and paper ready.

Materials: All materials should arrive with you body (pencil, pen, calculator, notebook, textbook, and lab materials)

Notes: Students will be required to take notes during many class days. These notes will be turned in at the end of each unit in a 3 ring binder. Students will not be allowed to type notes into their lap tops during lectures.