



AP Environmental Science

Dr. Meg Stockbridge, STEM High School



Course Overview

AP Environmental Science (APES) is interdisciplinary course, involving the fields of ecology, biology, ocean and atmospheric sciences, climatology, chemistry, geology, physics, toxicology, geography, economics, politics, and ethics, to name a few. APES is designed to be the equivalent of a college introductory environmental science course. The curriculum of this section of APES will be aligned with other instructors teaching the course, but may vary in assignments, tests, and policies

Course Goals

- 1.) to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand complex 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
- 4.) to examine alternative solutions for resolving or preventing them.

While this course explores many different topic areas, the following themes serve as a foundation for the course:

1. **Interconnectedness:** The Earth itself is one very large interconnected system.
2. **Sustainability:** The notion that the Earth's natural systems should function indefinitely over time without decline due to human impacts.
3. **Energy Conversions:** These underlie all ecological processes.
4. **Social and Cultural Context:** Environmental problems or challenges always have one.
5. **Human Impacts:** We are the primary organisms that alter or affect the Earth's natural systems.
6. **Environmental Science as a Process:** The scientific method and experimental design are at the heart of environmental science.

Laboratory Experiments and Field Investigations

Laboratory experiments and field investigations are designed to complement the lecture and discussion portion of the course. Examples of lab and field work include: ecosystem dynamics, soil analysis, ecological succession, population studies, carrying capacity, energy consumption, field-testing for tropospheric ozone, air pollution, toxicity testing, water quality monitoring, fish habitat needs, urban planning, solid waste management, and the greenhouse effect, to name a few.

Expectations for Learning

Grading Scale

A	100.0–90.0%	B+	89.9–87.0%	C+	79.9–77.0%	NC (No Credit)	≥69.9%
		B	86.9–83.0%	C	76.9–73.0%		
		B-	82.9–80.0%	C-	72.9–70.0%		

What Your Grade is Based On

Class Notes	Given the amount of material we have to cover in this demanding course, lectures and discussions comprise a significant part of our time together. You will turn in your class notes along with your assignment sheet at the end of each unit and they will count as part of your homework grade.
Book Work	You will read regularly in your text and will answer selected questions from the review sections.
Article Reviews	You will write at least one current event article review in each unit throughout the year.
Labs	Lab write-ups, some formal and some informal, will be turned in for points. Points will be assigned based on the difficulty of the lab and the formality of the write-up
Tests	Tests are 100 points each, tests with fewer than 100 points are scaled to equal 100 points, so that all tests are weighted equally.
Semester Finals	Count for 200 points or about 10% of your semester grade.

Checking Grades and Tracking Assignments

Each student is responsible for printing out and maintaining the assignment list for each unit. Due dates will be assigned in class, and are subject to change (always pushed back, but not due earlier) at the instructor's discretion. Homework will be checked off daily when due. At the end of the unit, the assignments AND the assignment tracking form will be collected. It is the student's responsibility to maintain and keep the assignment tracking form until the end of the unit. Once the unit is complete, grades will be entered in Skyward.

Students will have 1 week after a test to review their test. During this week period I may make adjustments to grades, particularly the FRQs, as these are peer graded. After this week period, no changes to the grade will be made; no exceptions.

The Limitations of Skyward

It is recommended that you do not throw away your graded papers and that you keep track of your grades on a spreadsheet, such as excel. Since I only grade your homework once during each unit, you will not be able to use Skyward to check up on daily homework completion. On the other hand, you can always check your assignment sheet to make sure you are keeping up. You can also check all our APES assignments on my Powerschool site.

Notes Outlines and Printed Materials

Notes outlines will be posted to my Powerschool website after they are presented in class. Students are also expected to print assignments if requested by me. If a student needs help printing, they must see me BEFORE the school day begins. I will not allow assignments or notes to be printed during class time. I reserve the rights to deduct points from assignments or daily grades if students are not prepared for class.

Late Work Policy:

Assignments may not be turned in late. Any class work or lab work not completed in class will be assigned as a homework assignment for that night. Each student is required to have this work completed at the beginning of class the following day. Any major assignments lasting over 3 class days will be announced and posted on Powerschool in advance, giving students time to prepare. **NO** late assignments will be accepted and tests will not be given at a later date (except for absent students).

Make-up Work Policy

Attendance is necessary to succeed in this course. However, if a student is absent, assignments missed can be found either on my Powerschool site or in the make-up work folder located at the front of the classroom. Each student is responsible for asking a classmate what they missed and following up with me if they have questions. It is an expectation that each student is responsible for their own work and will catch up when they return to school. It is not my responsibility to make sure you have gathered missed materials or to remind you to make up a test or quiz.

Students who don't put their name on turned in items (including tests) will be given a zero, with no exceptions.

Students will have one week from their absence to clear any missed assignments, tests, or quizzes (although I would strongly suggest completing them sooner than this). If there are any extenuating circumstances concerning make-up work, **parents should contact me before the student returns to school or on the student's first day back to discuss their individual situation.**

Classroom Rules and Consequences

1. Students are required to follow all school rules as described in the Student Rights and Responsibilities packet (see LWSD website).
2. Students are required to bring materials to class daily.
3. Students are to be in their seats and ready to begin class on time.
4. Students are to respect each other at all times.
5. Students are not to disrupt class unless they have been given permission to speak.
6. Students should not leave the classroom unless they have permission (including restroom breaks).
7. Students should speak softly and stay on task when working in groups.
8. All lab safety rules should be strictly followed.
9. Students should act as professionals at all times – remember, being a student is your job. This means no profanity, no inappropriate dress, etc.

Inappropriate behavior, disrespect, etc will not be tolerated. Parents will be contacted for any discipline issues. For major issues, administration will be involved.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is not allowed and will result in disciplinary action, in addition to loss of credit for an assignment.

Academic dishonesty could involve:

1. Having a tutor, friend, or parent complete a portion of your assignment.
2. Having a reviewer make extensive revisions to an assignment.
3. Copying work submitted by another student.
4. Using information from online information services without proper citation (i.e. plagiarism).
5. Taking exam answers from another student's paper.
6. Using materials not allowed during an exam

Cheating in any way, shape, or form will not be tolerated in class. I have a ZERO TOLERANCE policy on cheating. **If you are caught cheating or copying another student's work, you will receive an automatic zero for the assignment or test without warning.**

FRAGRANCE POLICY:

Students are encouraged to refrain from wearing heavily scented products during class sessions, since some individuals may experience chemical sensitivities to fragrances that interfere with their learning.

Electronic Devices

Each student at STEM is assigned a laptop. The following are procedures for how to use these and other electronic devices in my classroom.

1. Students are expected to bring their district assigned laptop to class each day fully charged and functional. (I strongly recommend bringing your charging cable to school each day).
2. Students should save their work to Microsoft OneDrive (the district approved cloud storage). This ensures you will be able to access your work from any computer in case you have to use a loaner.
3. No extensions will be granted due to a computer issue. You are responsible for having access to your work even if using a loaner computer.
4. Laptops and other electronic devices should not disrupt instruction. I will give instructions on when and how to use your laptop in class. I reserve the right to ask for all laptops to be removed from desks. If electronic devices (including cell phones) are disruptive to the class or are keeping you off-task, they will be taken and parents will be contacted.
5. ***No printer or computer excuses are allowed! You are responsible for having your materials and assignments when they are due.***

Office Hours

My office hours are below. Please use these for makeup tests and extra help as needed.

Monday – Friday 6:30-7:25am

Wednesday 2:20-3:40pm, or by appointment after school on Wednesday between 12:00 and 2:20

Assuming there are no faculty meetings on the day in question.

For urgent issues, or the inclusion of a parent, please be sure to make an appointment.

Thank you for reading the classroom procedures and syllabus! I look forward to working with you and hope to have a wonderful school year!