
AP Environmental Science Course Syllabus

Course Information

Course Location	Smith 1009	Instructor	Ms. Ashley King
Course Days/Time	M-F 9:30-10:50	Phone	(336) 370-8580
Tutorial	M& W 8:45-9:25 AM	Email	kinga3@gcsnc.com kinga3gcsnc@gmail.com (for Google Drive sharing ONLY)
Communication Times	M-F 8:30 AM-4:45 PM	Remind	Text @apes19 to 81010
		AP Classroom Join Code	Z7NG29

Course Description

The goal of the AP Environmental Science course is to provide you with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made, to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and to examine alternative solutions for resolving and/or preventing them.

Students will engage in laboratory experiments where all requirements of laboratory safety protocol must be followed.

Course Style

This course is taught using a blended learning framework. This framework requires students to do the front loading of information outside of class. You will be required to watch videos, read textbook selections (which are *college level* and *information dense*), and take adequate notes on the information presented to you. You will be required to thoroughly and actively engage with this information outside of class.

AP Environmental Science makes use of laboratory experiments, case studies, published scientific, economic, and political research, group discussion, collaborative learning, and written and spoken communication to explore specific content objectives and achieve the course goals. The more you put into the course, the more you will get out of it.

Course Objectives

At the end of AP Environmental Science, students will be able to:

- Apply principles and generalizations already learned to new problems and situations.

- Use analytic and problem-solving skills to understand scientific problems and literature.
- Synthesize and integrate information and ideas to develop well-thought out written responses.
- Demonstrate techniques and methods used to gather and interpret data in a laboratory setting.
- Distinguish between fact and opinion, and cultivate an understanding of contemporary environmental issues.
- Develop and demonstrate academic writing and speaking skills, including proper citation, attribution, and professional discourse

Instructional Materials

Students will be provided with access to the following items throughout the course:

Living in the Environment 13th Edition by G. Tyler Miller

Barron's AP Environmental Science 5th Edition by Gary Thorpe

Environmental Science by BIOZONE

AP Classroom by College Board

Canvas LMS Access

Classroom Student Response System

Additional readings provided electronically via Canvas or hard copy

Students should have the following items on the first day of school:

1.5-2 inch binder

Loose Leaf Notebook Paper

Pens (blue or black ONLY) and/or Pencils

Calculator (Scientific or TI-84 ONLY, cell phone calculators not allowed)

The Story of Stuff by Annie Leonard (Green Cover Edition)

Students will have access to the internet on campus, but should also be prepared to work online with materials outside of school time. *Reliable internet access is required for this course. Students are required to actively engage with the Canvas Learning Management System in order to succeed in this course.*

Grading Policies

Grade Calculation

This course uses additive grading, which means all students begin at a **0** and earn their way toward a higher grade. Your grade will be calculated by doing the following: **total points earned/total points possible x 100**. The number of points possible for the semester is 1,000 points. There are no category weights for this course. All assignments contribute to the total number of points each student may earn.

Quarter grades will be reported based on how many points a student has earned in relation to how many points were possible at that point in time.

During the semester, you will complete assignments such as unit tests and a final, quizzes (announced and unannounced), labs, projects, classwork, and clicker questions.

Module Tests (8 at ~31 pts.)	250 pts.
Lab Investigations/Notebook	250 pts
Summer Project	75 pts
Quizzes/Homework (Online & In Class)	200 pts.
Projects	200 pts
Citizenship (Clicker & Notebook Checks)	25 pts
<u>Final Exam/Activity</u>	<u>200 pts</u>
	1200 pts

Grades are awarded based on the following scale:

Letter Grade	Percentage	Point Range
A	90-100	1080-1200
B	80-89	960-1079
C	70-79	840-959
D	60-69	720-839
F	<59	<719

Grades as they are reported are final. Tests **will not be** curved and there will not be any extra credit opportunities other than those that are built into assignments as they are. The retest policy supports the premise that all student can experience success. At the end of each quarter, the student's lowest quiz/homework grade will be dropped.

Late Work Policy

NO LATE WORK IS ACCEPTED. Ample notice will be provided for students to complete assignments. Hard copy assignments are due at the beginning of class. Digital assignments are due at the designated time. Submissions time stamped *after* the deadline will receive a zero.

Submissions through email ARE NOT accepted without prior WRITTEN approval.

Students who arrive to class tardy for any unexcused reason (i.e. it was NOT because of a late bus, doctor's appointment, or being with another teacher with an appropriate note) will be required to complete the assignment during their assigned lunch period.

Students who are absent should check the Absent Notebook for missed or returned assignments. The student is responsible for getting any missing information from a classmate. Students will be excused from ONE missed lab. Additional missed labs must be scheduled before/after school and completed within one school week. Failure to do so will earn a zero.

Homework Policy

Homework is an important part of preparing for learning. It is absolutely necessary that students complete homework assignments in order to be able to make the most of their in class time. Students should expect to spend approximately 45 minutes *every night* for preparation work. Part of homework is taking personal notes from textbooks and/or video lectures. It is vital that students do this for themselves.

Attendance Policy

Good attendance is essential for student achievement and success. Students must attend a 45 minute extra help session for each unexcused absence over 3 in a class period in a nine weeks period. For students who have 5 or more absences in a class period in a nine week period, parents/guardians must request a waiver to avoid the student receiving a NC/65 for the class due to attendance.

It is the responsibility of the student on the first day of his/her return to school following an absence to arrange for make-up time and/or work. ***All assigned make-up work will be completed outside of regular class time within 3 school days (except in the case of consecutive multiple absences).*** Quizzes that are missed due to an unexcused tardy must be rescheduled and completed by the student within 48 hours.

Policies & Procedures

Arriving on time to class is a sign of preparation and respect for me and for your peers. It reduces lost time and distractions. “On time” means being in your seat and ready to begin at the designated start time of class.

While electronic devices can be useful and make our lives easier, they are also a distraction when used improperly. Please turn your devices off so that no ringers, alarms, buzzing, or lights distract your classmates. A pouch will be provided for you to store your cell phone during class.

Know yourself and when/where you need help. It’s always better to ask than to struggle in silence. If you need something (documented accommodations, a tutor, etc.), let me know as soon as possible so I can help you be the best you in this course.

Be familiar with the schedules and the guidelines in this syllabus. This is your guide for the year!

Correspond with me and your peers in an effective and respectful manner. Always include a subject in your emails and sign them with your name. And don’t say anything in writing that you wouldn’t say if they were standing in front of you.

Participate fully, even when you don’t think you know something. Failure is the path to growth. If you aren’t failing, you aren’t learning.

Behave at all times with respect, responsibility, and integrity. You are judged by your character, and only you control that. Own up to mistakes, work honestly, lose with grace, and treat others

as you want to be treated. You only get one opportunity to establish your character with someone—establish the best one you can.

Check Canvas often. Information that is important to you will be posted here. It's also where all of your quiz/homework assignments will be listed!

Students are responsible for complying with and are expected to be familiar with the GCS Code of Student Conduct and School Board policies governing student behavior and conduct. All Code of Student Conduct policies are contained in the GCS Student Handbook and the STEM Early College Handbook, which is distributed to all students and parents at the beginning of each school year. If there is a conflict between the rules expressed in this syllabus, the GCS Code of Student Conduct policies shall take precedence. Any violation in the code of student conduct will result in disciplinary actions outlined in your student agenda.

Academic Integrity

Any student who engages in or attempts to engage in plagiarism, falsification, violation of software copyright laws, or violations of computer access may be subject to disciplinary action and will receive zero on the assignment. Cheating includes giving or receiving any unauthorized assistance of academic work. Plagiarism includes copying the language, structure, or idea of another and representing it as one's own work.

Academic integrity is an important part of success and character. Students will be held to a high standard for academic integrity and behavior. A violation of academic integrity includes (but is not limited to) the following:

- Cheating on a test
- Taking pictures of an online quiz and sharing them with another student
- Copying the notes of another student instead of doing the work yourself
- Using someone else's work without giving them proper credit (citation)
- Copying from another student and submitting that work as your own original work
- Using unapproved sources or modes of information for an assignment
- Falsifying or lying about one's behavior in regards to an academic assignment

This class has a tiered policy in regards to academic integrity violations. Various violations are organized based on the severity of punishment.

Tier 1: Improper or missing citations in a paper (May be the result of negligence)

1st offense: Student is given a written warning/explanation of the offense to be signed off by student and parent, student-teacher conference to discuss the offense, parent notification.

2nd offense: Student must schedule a time before or after school to complete an alternative assignment in the teacher's presence for 50% credit, parent meeting requested, and student must complete an academic integrity project/presentation.

3rd offense: Student receives a zero on the assignment and is given a disciplinary referral. Parent notification is also made.

Tier 2: Using unapproved sources or modes of information on an assignment, copying from another student and presenting that work as your own original work, copying the notes of another student instead of doing the work yourself, taking pictures of online assignments and sharing them with another student, informing subsequent classes of pop quizzes (Is the result of a deliberate choice to gain or give an advantage to another)

1st offense: Student is given a written warning/explanation of the offense to be signed off by student and parent, student-teacher conference to discuss the offense, parent notification, and a zero on the assignment in question.

2nd offense: Student receives a zero on the assignment and is given a disciplinary referral. Parent notification is also made.

Tier 3: Cheating on a test, falsifying or lying about someone's behavior in regards to an academic assignment (Is the result of a deliberate choice to gain an advantage by deception)

1st offense: Student receives a zero on the assignment and is given a disciplinary referral. Parent notification is also made.

Please note that this DOES NOT mean that you can get caught cheating 6 times. Repeated academic integrity violations will result in disciplinary referrals. This isn't a pick-and-choose menu where you can do two from tier 1 and one from tier 2 without a disciplinary referral. Three strikes and you're out.

Academic integrity violations are compounding, meaning that if a student has one teacher for multiple courses, violations add up. A student who is found in violation of the academic integrity policy in class A and in class B is not at a 1st strike in both classes. He or she is at a 2nd strike in both.

Two Party Rule

The person who ALLOWS the copying/asks for information is just as guilty as the person who DOES the copying

The Depends Clause

Based on our experiences together during this course, we may establish new policies, procedures, expectations, or class norms. We will work through these together with mutual respect, understanding, and communication. Any changes will be shared in writing.