

AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Jackson Memorial High School

2021-2022

Instructor: Dana Christensen, PhD

Email: dchristensen@jacksonsd.org

Textbook:

Living in the Environment (AP edition), Miller & Spoolman

Course Description:

The AP Environmental Science course is designed to engage students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships within the natural world. The course requires that students identify and analyze natural and human-made environmental problems, evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and examine alternative solutions for resolving or preventing them. Environmental science is interdisciplinary, embracing topics from geology, biology, environmental studies, environmental science, chemistry, and geography.

For Details on Course please Use Collegeboard:

<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-environmental-science?course=ap-environmental-science>

Disclaimer:

This is a college level course. Please be prepared to exhibit college level effort. Additionally, there is less instructional time than usual (due to our virtual situation this year) which means you will need to be diligent in looking over the content on your own. The course is designed to prepare you for the AP test, so all activities and assignments will reflect this. We will be going through your textbook, barrons and the Collegeboard CED in their ENTIRETY (with additional activities including labs). Part of the college experience is managing your time and identifying how you best learn and seeking out those methods on your own. I will do my best to help, but you need to IDENTIFY what you know, what you don't know and what you are seeking (i.e. knowing how to ask the right questions, 'I don't get it' is not specific enough, identify what 'don't you get'). AP courses also require critical thinking, tests are designed so that material is inherently cumulative and is generally not regurgitation but blending concepts together using critical thinking. The more effort you put into the course, the more you will get out of it. Develop a network with your classmates.

If you genuinely complete all assignments (critically think on your own, do not copy etc.) there is no reason why you cannot get an A in the course and or a 5 on the AP test (be aware of your strengths and weaknesses). Generally a 4 or 5 on the AP test gets you college credit. Call your prospective college, most colleges are required to take AP credits. Even if the course does not transfer as a science for example based on your major, you WILL in many cases still be able to use the credits, and this saves time and money (thousands of dollars). In other words, please do not tell me that this course will not transfer (as it most likely will if you score high enough, even if not the type credits you want, still a benefit) unless you have called your prospective school. Even if you score lower than a 4, sometimes a 3 is taken for credit. Regardless, experiencing this type of course will better prepare you for a college experience.

For your Information:

2019 score distribution in AP Environmental Science: I consider this national average in my grading scheme for assessments. AP Tests consist of 3 FRQ (10 pts each) and 80 MC questions (subject to change based on Collegeboard). This means 9.4% of students earned a 5 by scoring a minimum of a 75% and approximately half of students enrolled in this course scored a 1 or 2.

Score-Percent of Students: %correct of exam

5 - 9.4%: 75-100%

4- 25.7%: 58 - 75%

3- 14.1%: 50-58%

2- 25.4%: 42-50%

1- 25.4% < 42%

**It is my goal that you think about yourself and your relationship with the world very differently than you did before the course*

Course Policies:

All course policies align with Collegeboard requirements and Jackson Memorial High School policies. If policies are not followed, you will be notified and if it cannot be resolved I will contact a parent/guardian AND proper administration if necessary. You are responsible for your grades and behavior.

Attendance:

You must be present in school and for all virtual meetings to receive credit. If you are marked absent too many times you may lose credit, it is your responsibility to check your attendance within genesis. Attendance will be kept with school policies which generally align with the State of NJ. Attendance requirements during emergencies such as quarantine will align with school policies.

School Policies:

Please see Jackson Memorial High School Handbook & website as well as updated policies (i.e. Updated Policies due to Covid). If policies are violated a phonecall will be made home and administration will be contacted if warranted. Please be clean (no eating or drinking in class), you are responsible for bringing a charged chrome book and for cleaning/disinfecting your area (and always wearing your mask).

Plagiarism:

All of your work must be done ON YOUR OWN. If there is evidence of plagiarism from the internet or another student it will be reported to administration. Grade on the assignment will result in a ZERO.

Emergency:

In the event of an emergency please contact me & the school as soon as possible (provide documentation). This way assignments can be provided appropriately in a timely manner and you will not lose credit. In the event there is an emergency and you cannot complete an assignment on time (or something to that nature) you must contact me AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (and before it is due).

Grading:

Hw: 10%

Participation: 25%

Assessment: 65%

*grades entered in genesis only to alleviate confusion

This mimics a college course and puts weight on your assessments. I generally try to limit the amount of assignments and make them meaningful. Small hw assignments are worth 10% (this may include worksheets, completing an assignment on AP classroom or google classroom, a discussion post, FRQ an exit survey from a virtual meeting etc). Participation does NOT mean participation in class, these assignments are generally larger and may include lab assignments and or work that you need to think critically on (FRQ, AP classroom). Assessment grades generally include minor vocab quizzes which will generally be given during the first week of a unit (vocab words are bold words in the book and additional words in provided vocabulary document), unit test grades (10 tests, 2 lab practicals and a final exam) and or large project grades. Tests usually consist of multiple choice and open ended questions (they also tend to be long).

Remember that colleges ONLY see your FINAL grade in the course which consists of each MP (MP 1&2 are combined, 3&4 are combined, 5&6 are combined) and the final exam. On Top of that you receive 10 extra points due to the weighting of the course (which you can track in genesis). Please do not nitpick for points, as generally points here or there are not worth much in the grand scheme of things. I generally grade slightly less harsh than you should be (i.e. taking a half point off rather than full). I also provide an opportunity to earn the designated curve on your exams (if you make corrections). I design assessments so that top students can score a 75% (this is a 5 on the AP test). Students generally do not like a 75% in genesis (even though this translates to an 85%). SO, if you come in on your own time, you may complete test corrections (in which you will receive an AP curve, this will differ on each test, but generally allows top scoring students to receive an A, and grades follow respectively).

Generally I will contact home and or a guidance counselor if you are scoring a D or lower in the course but generally try to place responsibility on you, the student (i.e. not hound you for work etc). Please check genesis, once semester grades are in I cannot change them, if there is an issue with one of your grades I must be notified as soon as possible in order to resolve.

Late Assignments:

Late assignments will not be accepted. Please contact me if an issue arises (see emergency section)

Cell Phones:

No cell phones in class, they must be placed in the correct cell phone holder slot on the wall. If cell phones are out during an assessment, there is a no tolerance policy as you will receive a zero. If there is an emergency, please notify me at the start of class. These generally cause a distraction for the learning environment (if an app may be of use to us, I will allow you to use them).

Virtual Etiquette:

Please follow school policies here. Be respectful of others. You must show up ON TIME to these meetings. Keep your MIC off when signing in (just in case it is noisy). Send emails that are appropriate. Allow others to share openly and allow yourself to share openly. Please be prompt during virtual meetings and follow directions. Dress appropriately (i.e dress code) & please do not eat or drink during these meetings & be at a desk space. Also be mindful that everyone has the right to an opinion (identify the difference between opinion and fact) and we all make mistakes. Please help me to create an environment that fosters learning.

General Outline

Detailed Outline (includes all textbook chapters, Barron's chapters, CED sections and lab activities associated with each unit)

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/17B1cVKOA1FFIgLjYwU-jBuplHzDFs8VurZd6WPQXu9cc/edit>

Calendar (Includes tentative dates, your test day will be when you are physically in class. If test missed, instructor has right to give a different assessment)

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1gxP8wAq2NlkEwGUK65DWxC9-hcEvZqWu/edit?usp=sharing&oid=105777998646902689785&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Unit 1 Earth Systems

Unit 2 The Living World

Unit 3 Sustaining Biodiversity

Unit 4 Sustaining Aquatic Systems

Lab Practical 1(all labs, activities and related concepts until this point)

Unit 5 Human Populations

Unit 6 Sustaining Natural Resources

Unit 7 Energy

Unit 8 (part 1) Sustaining Environmental Quality/Protection (land)

Unit 8 (part 2) Sustaining Environmental Quality/Protection (air)

Unit 9 Sustaining Human Societies

Final Exam (all Units)

Lab Practical 2(all labs, activities and related concepts until this point)

(1-2 test grades based on projects following the AP test)

Resources:

-You must check email, google classroom, genesis and associated assignments often

-Course Outline (DETAILED):

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/17B1cVKOA1FFIgLjYwU-jBuplHzDFs8VurZd6WPQXu9cc/edit>

-Course Calendar:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1gxP8wAq2NlkEwGUK65DWxC9-hcEvZqWu/edit?usp=sharing&oid=105777998646902689785&rtpof=true&sd=true>

-Collegeboard CED:

<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/pdf/ap-environmental-science-course-and-exam-description.pdf>

-AP Classroom:

<https://myap.collegeboard.org/login>

A Day: AP6MD7

B Day: 4NE4KW

-Google Classroom:

<https://classroom.google.com/>

A Day: j5rqm3g

B Day: zooyuav

*Any and all of this is subject to change based on college board recommendations, student outcomes, JMHS requirements, and or mandated changes to virtual vs non virtual structure of courses (i.e. state of NJ requirements, full remote etc.)

I have read the APES class guidelines and understand its content:

Student name _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Guardian Name(s): _____

Parent/Guardian signature _____ Date _____

Parent Contact Information:

Phone _____

Alt Phone _____

Email _____

Please indicate the preferred method of contact: _____

Other Info you want me to know/concerns: _____