

AP Environmental Science

Course Policies and Requirements

2023 – 2024



Mr. R.B. Conlan
Office: 906
Classroom: 908/910
Email: Robert.Conlan@greenwich.k12.ct.us

*This course is designed to prepare students for the AP Environmental Science exam administered in May by the College Board. Due to the quantity of material in the course and the depth to which it must be covered, the course will move quickly. Inasmuch, it is imperative that each student recognizes and understands that she/he is making a **significant commitment in terms of time**. AP Environmental Science the equivalent of a one-semester introductory college course in environmental science that includes laboratory and field study components. The course is designed to provide students 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 man-made, to evaluate the risks associated with these problems and to examine alternative solutions for resolving and/or preventing them. **Important: As a GHS student in an AP science course, the departmental expectation is that you take the AP Examination in May.***

Gmail account. All documents shared with teachers must occur via a student's school-provided Google Docs account. As a reminder, the school-provided student Gmail/Google Docs account format is: firstname.lastname@greenwichschools.org.

GHS Honor Code:

The Honor Code is in the Student Planner and the expectation is that it will be followed

General Information:

- **Textbook:** *Environment: The Science Behind the Stories*, Withgott, J., Laposata, M., 5th Edition, AP Edition, Pearson Publishers, 2014. Your textbook offers an online resource site with chapter objectives, practice quizzes, vocabulary lists and internet resource links to enhance your reading and understanding:

- **Required Class Materials**

- A positive attitude!
- Spiral bound notebook **to take notes in class.**
- Writing utensils for class notes.
- ***Unless specifically directed, chrome books, laptops and cell phones are not to be out or used in class. Cell phones are to be put in the phone caddy upon arrival to class and are NOT to be remove until class ends.*** Notes should be taken in a spiral-bound notebook.
- Textbook: The textbook is not needed for class work, as you will have an online version as well. You may leave your physical textbook at home, unless directed otherwise.
- Access to the internet is required for work at home.

Course Requirements:

- Class attendance is *critical* for success in this course.
- Independent reading of the assigned material.
- Completion and submission of all assignments and activities when due.
- Tests, quizzes, and exams are to be taken when scheduled. Should you need to reschedule, please meet with me before the day of the scheduled test.
- When in the laboratory or in the field, safety standards will be strictly enforced.
- Teamwork and collaborative problem solving is encouraged.

Internet and Online Use:

- Homework and other classroom related information will be posted and updated daily. Tests, quizzes, lab work, etc, will be posted to the class website, www.apesbio.org Tests will be posted at least one week in advance.
- You will be required to use the internet extensively to supplement text assignments as well as to do research, access articles, etc.

Field Trips and Outdoor Activities:

On days when we venture outdoors, appropriate attire and footwear is required. Sneakers or closed shoes, long pants and appropriate outerwear is your responsibility. The campus has lots of poison ivy and stinging nettles. If you come to class inappropriately attired for the day, you will be assigned to the Learning Center and will lose credit for the activity. You will not be allowed to “go to your car” to get your things; everything should be with you before we go outside.

Students with allergies to bee stings must carry an epi-pen with them during walks in the field, especially in the fall when wasps (yellow jackets – *Vespula maculifrons*) tend to be more aggressive. Students with pollen, dust &/or other allergies are responsible for maintaining their own comfort level.

Grading:

Each quarter, grades will be calculated according to the following guidelines:

- **Assessments: Tests & Quizzes:** will comprise 70% of the quarter grade.
- **All Other Academic Class Endeavors:** will comprise 30% of the quarter grade.
Categories of grades that will be included here are:
 - Homework
 - Essays
 - Labs
 - Projects
 - Current event reports
 - Collaborative assignments
 - Attendance (including tardiness): excessive absences and tardiness will affect your final quarter grade, as per GHS Policy.
- **Exams:** Midterm and Final exams are each 10% of the final year-end grade.
- **Due Dates:** *Work is **DUE** on the date assigned at the beginning of class.* If you are absent (assuming it is excused), the work that is due is acceptable the next day without penalty. Otherwise, **LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED** under any circumstances.
- **Test Makeup due to Absence:** *If you are absent for any test or quiz, it is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to make up the test **no later than your second day back.** For multiple days absence, according to GHS policy, tests must be made up within 2 days for each day absent. Communication with me is **YOUR** responsibility. *Any test not made up within three (3) days of the original test date/or your return to school, will be pulled from the learning center and you will not be allowed to make it up and will be given a grade of zero (0%).**
- **IMPORTANT:** With the time schedule now in effect, student athletes will be excused for athletic competitions at various times at the end of the day. Unfortunately, some of these dismissals will coincide with their class/lab blocks. *Students will be responsible for making up lab work missed **THE FOLLOWING MORNING, BEGINNING AT 7:28 A.M.***
- **Website:** The website will be updated everyday to keep the class current. If you are absent, it is a resource for you to be able to stay on top of what we're doing in class.
- **Attendance Policy:** The school-wide attendance policy will be strictly enforced in this class. You will have a **MAXIMUM** of three (3) additional minutes to get to class after the bell has rung. Failure to be **IN** class at the three-minute mark will result in a tardy.

Electronic Devices:

As stated above, laptop computers, Chrome-books, iPads, etc., **MAY NOT be used in class to take notes.** Cell phones are to be off and, in your backpack or in the class phone caddy, unless instructed to the contrary.

Food, Water, Drinks:

Room 910 is an active environmental science and marine biology laboratory and inasmuch, ***there is to be no food in the lab. Water, if in a refillable bottle, will be allowed. Plastic water bottles are forbidden (i.e., environmental science??)***

As stated above, APES is a college level course, and multiple modes of instruction will be employed, followed by a class discussion. ***The class moves very quickly, and you may expect to have one test per cycle.*** While you will not have written homework every night, you will have an assignment every night. Lab work and lab reports and the importance thereof speak for themselves, as they comprise an integral portion of the AP exam in May.

I consider reading outside of class to be a fundamental aspect of the course. When assigned, it is important that you remain current by reading and understanding of the material.

Conduct, Rules and Expectations:

First and foremost, I expect you to get to class on time. Tardy is defined as anything beyond passing time plus three minutes. Tardiness of >15 minutes will result in a cut, as per school policy.

Students are expected to behave in a manner that is consistent with the expectations of a student attending GHS, as delineated in the student handbook. There is no place for inappropriate behavior in class, especially during laboratory sessions where the risk of personal injury or damage to equipment is greatest. Misbehavior during lab will result in immediate removal from class and will be dealt with severely.

Studying:

Suffice it to say, ***AP Environmental Science is an information intensive subject*** best studied by daily review of the areas and topics covered in class.

You are encouraged to work with your fellow classmates when appropriate, as they are one of your best resources for information and feedback. Of course, all work you ultimately submit to be graded ***must be your own.*** Plagiarism and cheating are serious offences and will be dealt with according to GHS policy.

Extra-Help:

Extra-help sessions may be scheduled either before or after school by speaking with me in advance. My schedule is posted in several places: on the APES website, and outside of the APES classroom (910) and on my office door (906). Be sure to speak with me or inquire via email about scheduling an appointment for extra-help. Inasmuch as meetings and other

commitments also fill my schedule, don't wait until the last minute ... plan ahead. It is your responsibility to seek extra-help when needed.

AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Save this sheet! It will be helpful when you begin to review for the exam. The course is organized by the College Board, into three broad topic areas. The percentages given in the outline below reflect the emphasis placed on that topic on the exam. The link below outlines the entire APES course!!

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