



Portsmouth High School
Course Overview & Expectations – AP Environmental Science

Course Information

Credits: 1
Course Length: Full Year
Class Location: B-7

Teacher Information

Name: Lisa Zabel
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Course Description

The full year Advanced Placement (AP) Environmental Science course is equivalent to a one-semester introductory science course at the college level. The goal of the AP Environmental Science course is to draw on prior knowledge of physical and biological sciences, as well as mathematics, to examine specific principles and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of our natural world. This course will examine how these interrelationships in the environment intersect with the expanding of the human population. One period every week is spent in laboratory or fieldwork investigation. This course is a field based course.

Each student is required to take the College Board® AP Environmental Science Exam.

The Seven Content Areas and percent covered:

- Earth Systems and Resources (10-15%)
- The Living World (10-15%)
- Population (10-15%)
- Land and Water Use (10-15%)
- Energy Resources and Consumption (10-15%)
- Pollution (25-30%)
- Global Change (10-15%)

The Next Generation Science Standards have been adopted in Rhode Island and we are working to implement these standards into our courses

This is an interdisciplinary course. Students who wish to major in science in college are recommended to take this course; however, motivated students who do not wish to major in science or math, but have strong written skills, are also encouraged to enroll.

Units of Study Sequence:

- Unit 1: Earth's Systems and Resources
- Unit 2: Ecology
- Unit 3: Biomes
- Unit 4: Human Population
- Unit 5: Land and Water Use
- Unit 6: Energy/Energy Resources
- Unit 7: Pollution
- Unit 8: Waste and Human Health
- Unit 9: Global Change and Sustainable Future
- Unit 10: Review for the AP Exam
- Unit 11: Projects

Class Size and Scheduling

Class size is held to 25 students due to lab facilities. The school runs on a block schedule so the class periods are 84 minutes each. Each class meets every other day. One period every week is spent in a laboratory or fieldwork investigation.

Course Prerequisites

AP Environmental Science is an elective course open to students who have taken academic biology, AP biology, academic chemistry, AP chemistry and algebra. Students may be currently taking AP Physics and academic physics at the same time.

Expectations

All students are expected to be highly self-motivated. Extensive individual reading and writing assignments as well as mathematical problems are expected. Students are expected to take part in hands-on activities and experiments throughout the course. AP Environmental Science is an applied course. Hands-on lab activities are an important component of this course. Many lab activities will be conducted outside and off school grounds. Proper dress will be required during these days. The course requires reading, lectures, class discussions and participation, laboratory experiments, and research project(s). AP Environmental Science is designed to provide students with the scientific principles to understand the interrelationships of the natural world and draws upon various scientific disciplines. Students will be required to attend one beach clean-up to meet the community service component of this course.

This class will uphold the school's mission and expectations for student learning.

Course Competencies/ Learning Objectives

PHS Learning Expectations: PRIDE

1. Access and critically analyze information to answer questions and explore ideas
2. Solve problems through prioritizing and planning for results
3. Write proficiently for a variety of purposes
4. Communicate effectively in a variety of formats
5. Interpret and design visual messages for specific purposes
6. Engage in work with integrity, both independently and collaboratively
7. Demonstrate knowledge and skills through the use of technology

Textbooks and Other Resources

- Textbook: *Environmental Science for AP** by Andrew Friedland, Rick Relyea, and David Courard-Hauri, First Edition, 2012, W.H. Freeman and Company.
- Pen, pencils
- Three-ring binder and Scientific Notebook

Student Evaluation

Grading: All assignments will count toward your grade. The grading policy is as follows:

- Tests and Quizzes 60%
- Lab and Class Activities 40 %

All assignments are due at the **beginning** of the class period for the assigned deadline. Missed assignments receive a zero point value. **LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

The year grade is an average of the four quarters, the mid-year exam and final exam. Students will be required to successfully complete common course assessments (CCA's) as required for graduation by all AP Environmental Science students. All assignments in this class have been designed to meet the AP Environmental Science course requirements, the NEW Science Standards, the Rhode Island Grade Level Expectations for Life Science, and align with High School's Mission Statement and Expectations for Student Learning.

Attendance Expectations

Regular and prompt class attendance is an essential part of the educational experience. Portsmouth High School expects students to exercise good judgment regarding attendance and absences. Students will accept full responsibility for ensuring their work does not suffer because of absences. All students are expected to attend every scheduled class on time. Exceptions may be made for illness and valid emergencies. Please refer to the Student Handbook for additional information.

The responsibility to make up missed work falls upon the student. When a student is unexpectedly absent, upon returning to class, the student is expected to submit the assignment that was assigned the last day present in class. The student is also expected to make arrangements with me to make up the missed work. If you miss work due to an absence, you must make up the work within one week of your return to class. If the work has not been completed after one week, a grade of "0" will be given. If you are absent because of a prolonged illness, you will be given special consideration. If you have missed class due to other circumstances (field trips, family vacations, class activities, etc.) it will be your responsibility to arrange for make-up work with me before the class/classes to be missed. Failure to make arrangements prior to the missed class will result in a zero for the assignments missed during this time

Classroom Expectations

Class preparation - Students must be prepared with their books, notebooks and a writing utensil at the start of each class. Students will not be allowed to go to their lockers after class has begun. Behavior - Horseplay is strictly forbidden and will not be tolerated during class and especially not during lab. Students who are guilty of reckless behavior will receive a zero for the lab or the assignment. In some cases, a parent conference will be scheduled before the student will be allowed to work in the lab again. The student will be asked to sign a Safety Contract and take a safety assessment. Blatant disregard for lab safety will result in the student being removed from the class. Safety is of the utmost importance.

PHS Core Values and Beliefs

Patriot PRIDE: (Values): Perseverance Respect Innovation Dedication Engagement

Patriots believe: (Beliefs)

1. We are all members of a safe, supportive and accepting community
2. All community members have unique talents to contribute
3. All community members are responsible for teaching and learning
4. All students have access to a guaranteed and viable curriculum with authentic learning opportunities
5. All community members have opportunities to explore ideas and achieve
6. All graduates will be college and career ready

Academic Integrity, Cheating & Plagiarism

Students are responsible for earning grades honestly and honorably including homework. Failure to meet this responsibility will result in disciplinary action. Please refer to the Student Handbook for additional information.

Cheating is defined as using someone else's work or labor with or without their knowledge, and representing it as your own. This includes (but is not limited to) giving or receiving answers or work on a task, test or quiz, removing tests or answers from the testing room, plagiarism, any use of a cell phone or other communication or recording device during the task/test. It is also knowingly giving your work or labor to another, for representation as his- or her-own produced work.

General Information

If you are having trouble with this class, come to me immediately and I can work with you. If you wait until the end of the marking period, it will be TOO LATE. I will be available to help you understand so you can be successful in this class. I am available for extra help by appointment, just ask! Please do not hesitate to get help if you need it!!! I am available after school by appointment. You can always contact me by email. My email address is zabell@portsmouthschoolsri.org.

Syllabus/Course Outline

See the Aspen Course Page for more information or my website for more information
<http://mszabelsclassroom.weebly.com/>

Tentative Field Trips:

Block Island	September
Energy RI	December
Johnston Landfill	March
Brayton Power Plant	April

I have read and understand the information related to the course as explained in the AP Environmental Science Instructional Management Plan. I agree to adhere to these policies and expectations as long as I am a student in Ms. Zabel's class. I understand that I am welcome to contact Ms. Zabel with any questions or concerns that I may have via email (zabell@portsmouthschoolsri.org).

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

I have read the AP Environmental Science Instructional Management plan and agree to help my son/daughter adhere to these policies and expectations. I understand that I am welcome to contact Ms. Zabel with any questions or concerns that I may have by phone or via email (zabell@portsmouthschoolsri.org).

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name (printed): _____

Email Address (optional): _____