



AP Environmental Syllabus 2025-2026

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Room 704

Course Overview

Introduction

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, chemistry, and geography.

Course and Exam Description

The CED document is essential for understanding the content of the course and informing your studies. It tells you exactly what you are expected to know and not know for this course. A digital copy can be found on Canvas. I recommend you bookmark and reference it prior to each unit exam.

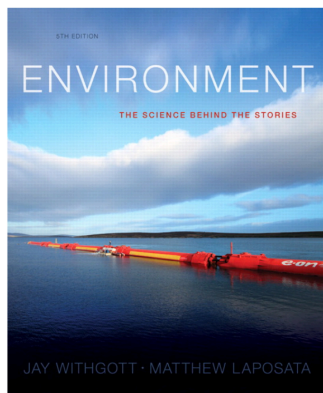
Course Content Overview

Unit	Topics	Chapters in textbook	Exam Weight
1: Ecosystems	Ecosystems, Biomes, Nutrient Cycles, Food Webs	1, 4, 5	6-8%
2: Biodiversity	Biodiversity, Biogeography, Evolution, Succession	3, 11	6-8%
3: Populations	Survivorship, Carry Capacity, Age Structure, Human Population Dynamics	8	10-15%
4: Earth Systems and Resources	Geology, Soil, Atmosphere, Geography, Climate	2	10-15%

5: Land and Water Use	Forestry, Agriculture, Meat Production, Fishing, Urbanization, Sustainability	6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16	10-15%
6: Energy Resources and Consumption	Renewable Energy, Fossil Fuels, Non Renewable Energy, Conservation	19, 20, 21	10-15%
7: Atmospheric Pollution	Air Pollution, Acid Rain, Noise Pollution	17	7-10%
8: Aquatic and Terrestrial Pollution	Aquatic Pollution, Biomagnification, Solid Waste, Lethal Dose 50, Pathogens	14, 22, 23	7-10%
9: Global Change	Ozone Depletion, Climate Change, Ocean Acidification, Invasive Species, Endangered Species	18, 24	15-20%

Science Practice	Multiple-Choice Exam Weight	Free-Response Exam Weight
1. Concept Explanation	30-38%	13-20%
2. Visual Representations	12-19%	5-10%
3. Text Analysis	6-8%	N/A
4. Scientific Experiments	2-4%	10-14%
5. Data Analysis	12-19%	6-10%
6. Mathematical Routines	6-9%	20%
7. Environmental Solutions	17-23%	26-34%

Required Textbook



Withgott, Laposata 5th edition *Environment* (2014) - online at masteringenvironmentalscience.com

Copies of this textbook are available at the library. This textbook aligns with the CED requirements listed above. It is also recommended, though not mandatory, to get a “test prep” book for review.

Grades and Assessments

The AP Environmental exam will be Friday, May 15th at 8:00 AM

Grading Scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% and below

Grades are weighted as follows:

Classwork (Practice) 30%

Assessment 70%

Due Dates, Late Work, and Extensions

All assignments will have a due date listed on Canvas. Each Friday, students will complete “Analysis Questions” to demonstrate their learning of the week’s work. **These questions must be submitted by the following Monday. Questions WILL NOT be accepted after that Monday!**

Other assignments completed during the week, such as labs, article questions, etc... can be submitted until the end of the Unit. Once the Unit is complete, they will be locked. *

I WILL NOT unlock assignments after they lock. I do not deduct any points for late work.

**This does NOT mean that you should be turning in your assignments late each unit. Keeping on-pace with the class is very important, and while turning in assignments late will not affect your academic grade, and accumulation of late assignments can adversely affect your citizenship grade.

Assessments

Throughout each unit, assignments that show mastery of the material will be counted in the assessment category. Students will be advised of these assignments prior to beginning the assignment.

There will be a multiple choice assessment at the end of each unit. Some units will also have an FRQ assessment. MCQ and FRQ questions are taken directly from College Board to align with the CED and AP Exam.

Assessment Revisions

After each assessment, students will have the opportunity for revisions in the form of a “group retake”. Student scores will be an average of their individual and group scores.

IMPORTANT: Students who have an **unexcused absence on either the test OR revisions day may lose their ability to participate in retakes. Students must inform me 48 hours before the test if they will be absent to be eligible for a retake.

FRQ revisions will be available for some FRQs at teacher discretion.

Assessments are “open-note”, but phones and electronics must be kept away. All test materials must be kept in the classroom. Use of electronics during a test or removal of any testing material will result in an automatic 0.

Expectations and other Class Policies

Expectations

1. Respect yourself and others
2. Be on time and ready to learn
3. Take responsibility of your learning

Tutoring is available!

Tutoring is available! I am usually available from 8:00-4:00. Please let me know if you need help, and I will make time for you!

Tips for Success

1. **Be prepared to spend time on this class.**
2. Read everything carefully.
3. Start early. Do not wait until the last minute.
4. Keep trying! The times when you struggle are the times you are learning the most
5. Take a deep breath when you are stressed.
6. Be kind to yourself.
7. Ask questions promptly and often.
8. Be organized

Attendance

Students should make every effort to attend class and to be on time. Many activities we do in class cannot be made up.

Students who are absent must talk to me within one week of their absence. They will be provided with a way to make up the assignment OR an alternate assignment. **Students who do not speak with me will receive a 0 on the assignment.**

Citizenship

Citizenship grades are awarded based on behavior and attendance in class. Citizenship grades will be lowered for the following reasons:

1. Negative behavior towards the teacher or fellow students
2. Excessive late work submissions
3. **Excessive absences** (see [Citizenship Grade Rubric](#) for more information)

Academic Integrity

All work (homework, quizzes, tests, papers, projects, labs, etc.) must be your own. Cheating includes, but is not limited to

- o Submitting work copied from a friend or an outside source (without attribution), including copying from ChatGPT or other AI programs
- o Giving work to a friend or giving/receiving excessive assistance from someone
- o Accepting or giving help during a test or quiz.

I take academic integrity very seriously. By cheating, you are not only wasting your own time but mine as well. For a course like AP Environmental Science, you will greatly decrease the benefit you receive from this class by cheating. In most cases, cheating will result in an automatic zero on the assignment, phone call home, and possible administration involvement.

Organization

You will receive MANY papers for this class, including notes guides, labs, and practice worksheets. I HIGHLY recommend utilizing a 3-ring binder. Tests will be open-note, but if you cannot find your notes, they can't help you!

Please tear off this page and return by Friday, August 15th.

AP Environmental

By signing below, you are acknowledging that you have seen, read and agree to the following mandates, terms, and conditions of the syllabus.

Families, please contact me with questions of concerns- I love to hear from you.
stempelton@sandi.net (619) 605-8100 ext 2704

My student and I have read and understand the syllabus. My student will honor it, and I will support it.

Student Name: _____ Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Parent Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Contact Information:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please note that I primarily communicate information on projects, tests, and grade updates by EMAIL.
Please provide an email you check frequently.

Is there anything else you would like me to know about your student?
