



Angela R. Stouffer
Smithsburg High School
301-766-8347
stoufang@wcps.k12.md.us



Course Outline

This course will systematically cover the study of the environment and our proper place in it. Environmental Science is highly interdisciplinary integrating the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities in a holistic study of our world. The course will help prepare the student to take the AP Environmental Science test in May. The course is intended to be a “field course” in environmental testing, sustainability and resource management. The student will be instructed in current field techniques for the study of organisms and the environment. The quantification and interpretation of data will be emphasized. Students will be expected to participate in independent and group projects that relate to different aspects of environmental science. These will include environmental monitoring, environmental advocacy, environmental education, and environmental planning. Course materials will encompass a variety of disciplines including geology, biogeology, soils, forestry, wildlife biology, sustainability, energy, aquatic biology, and resource management.

This year in AP Environmental Science class, you will have many opportunities for learning, growth and achievement. I will be monitoring your progress using the following grading policy. Please note that the percentage points possible for each category may vary slightly.

Science Grading Policy	Possible Percentage Points
Class Activities including Warm-Ups Questions and Exit Questions	10%
Lab Activities and Lab Notebook	20%
Homework	5%
Projects	5%
Quizzes & Tests including Lab Practical Quizzes & Exams	60%
Total Points	100%

The percent grade for an assignment is determined by dividing the points earned by the points possible and multiplying that answer by 100.

For example:

$$\frac{8}{10} = .80 \times 100 = 80\%$$

Grades are reported each marking period by a percentage. Each category contributes a proportional percent of the final grade earned.



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Homework

Homework is an essential part of your learning experience. Doing homework on a regular basis provides you with increased exposure to scientific topics. You will be assigned a study guide for each chapter to complete. Due dates will be given for each study guide. It will take a few hours to complete, I recommend you complete a little each night. Do not wait until the day before! Occasionally an unfinished class assignment may also be sent home for completion. There will also be a few projects assigned throughout the year which will require some preparation and information gathering outside of school hours.

Labs

You will be doing a number of exciting laboratory activities this year. You will be given a laboratory manual. This manual must be present everyday. If the manual is lost, you will need to complete any lost assignments. To ensure that every student has fun and succeeds in the laboratory, it is important that you have a thorough understanding of safe lab practices. ***It is the policy of Washington County Public Schools that Science Safety Contracts must be signed and returned before students are allowed to participate in lab activities.***

Quizzes and Tests

To ensure that you are regularly completing and understanding your course work, I will administer ***at least*** one vocabulary and/or conceptual quiz per week (some of these quizzes may be completed online). Your progress will also be assessed regularly throughout the school year through the use of unit exams. The dates for all exams will be announced well in advance and you will complete a review packet for each exam to help you study and prepare for the test. If you earn a test grade of 75% or lower, please feel free to discuss this with me for suggestions on how you can improve your performance.

The following are estimated dates for our exams. These dates may change slightly depending on changes in the schedule. I will provide the most current dates on google classroom and plenty of advance notice for upcoming exams.

Unit One: October 18, 2019
Unit Two: November 14, 2019
Unit Three: December 6, 2019
Unit Four: January 3, 2020
Unit Five: February 5, 2020
Unit Six: March 9, 2020
Unit Seven: April 3, 2020
AP Exam: May 11, 2020



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Projects

At least one project will be assigned per marking period. Complete instructions will be provided at the time each project is assigned and ample time will be given for completion of the project.

Late or Make-up Work

It is important that all assignments are completed and handed in on time. Missing assignments for unexcused absences will be accepted at my discretion with a penalty. If you have an excused absence, please visit with me ***immediately upon returning to the classroom*** (or in advance if possible). If you are absent on the day that a test or quiz is being given, and it is an excused absence, you will be allowed to make up the test or quiz on your own time. You are expected to make up the test or quiz immediately upon return to school.

AP Exam:

The AP exam for AP Environmental Science will occur on May 11, 2020. The exam is two hours and forty minutes long and is divided in time between a multiple-choice section and a free-response section. The multiple-choice section, which makes up 60% of the final score and lasts 90 minutes, consists of 80 multiple-choice questions and is designed to cover your knowledge and understanding of environmental science. Thought-provoking problems and questions based on fundamental ideas are included along with questions based on the recall of basic facts and major concepts. The number of multiple-choice questions taken from each major topic area is shown below:

1. Ecosystems (6-8%)
2. Biodiversity (6-8%)
3. Populations (10-15%)
4. Earth Systems and Resources (10-15%)
5. Land and Water Use (10-15%)
6. Energy Resources and Consumption (10-15%)
7. Atmospheric Pollution (7-10%)
8. Aquatic and Terrestrial Pollution (7-10%)
9. Global Change (15-20%)

For example, in Earth Systems and Resources, you will see 10-15% of questions on this topic, so you can expect to have 8-12 multiple-choice questions from this area on the actual exam.

The free response section, which is 70 minutes long, makes up 40% of your final score. It contains one investigation design question, one analysis of an environmental problem and design a solution question, and one analysis of an environmental problem and design a solution with calculations question. To respond, you must organize your answers to demonstrate reasoning and analytical skills, as well as the ability to write clearly and concisely.



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I will provide sample questions throughout the year to help you prepare for the AP exam. Once we get closer to the testing date, I will hold a couple of practice test session to also help you prepare for the exam.

Outline:

Unit 1:

1. Studying the State of Our Earth
2. Environmental Systems
3. Ecosystem Ecology
4. Global Climates and Biomes
5. Evolution of Biodiversity

Unit 2:

1. Population and Community Ecology
2. The Human Population

Unit 3:

1. Earth Systems
2. Water Resources

Unit 4:

1. Land, Public and Private
2. Feeding the World

Unit 5:

1. Nonrenewable Energy Sources
2. Achieving Energy Sustainability

Unit 6:

1. Water Pollution
2. Air Pollution and Stratospheric Ozone Depletion
3. Waste Generation and Waste Disposal
4. Human Health and Environmental Risks

Unit 7:

1. Conservation of Biodiversity
2. Global Change
3. Sustainability, Economics, and Equity



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Parents:

I will send home progress reports at least once every 2-3 weeks. With the ParentVue System, I will only be sending home an updated grade, not an entire print-out of all assignments. If you are not able to access ParentVue and would like an entire print-out each time, please let me know. To encourage students to share grade reports with their parents, I offer a couple of extra credit points to the students for a signed and returned progress report. If you provide me with an email address, I can also maintain communication with you via email.

Finally, I will be using Remind101 to remind students of upcoming assignments. If you would also like text reminders, please indicate this on the contact sheet.

Please help me maintain a safe environment by reviewing the attached safety guidelines with your son or daughter. When you are sure they understand and agree to the safety guidelines, sign the safety contract together and return it to me no later than September 6, 2019. With the signed contract, your son or daughter will be welcomed in the science lab. ***It is the policy of Washington County Public Schools that Science Safety Contracts must be signed and returned before students are allowed to participate in lab activities.***

Please know that it is my priority to ensure that each student has adequate assistance and ample opportunity to succeed in science class. If you have any questions about the class or your child's progress, please feel free to contact me at school by phone or email.

Sincerely,

Angela R. Stouffer

Angela R. Stouffer
Anatomy & Physiology, AP Environmental Science, Biology Teacher
SALT Advisor
AVID Coordinator