AP environmental science is designed to be the equivalent of an introductory college course in environmental science. This course is a rigorous, in depth, study of advanced topics in environmental science. Students will be challenged to engage in higher order thinking with a foundation based upon significant amounts of reading, writing, and laboratory research. Students enrolled in this course will be expected to plan to take the AP Environmental Science exam. High scores on this exam can count as college credit at some Colleges and Universities. There is a cost to register for the exam.

Text: **Raven, Hassenzahl, Berg: *Environment, 8th Edition***.

**Grading procedure**

Each graded assignment will be worth a point value. A percentage grade can be calculated by dividing the number of points earned on the assignment by the total amount of points possible and then multiply by 100.

Example. A project may be worth 20 points. You earn 18 points. 18 / 20 = .9 x100= 90%

I highly encourage you to keep track of all of your graded assignments in case I make a mathematical error when calculating marking period grades. If you save all papers, then an error on my part can be caught and corrected with your help. (It happens!)

Marking period grades will be a percentage of all of your points earned divided by the total points possible x 100. AP course are weighted by a factor of 1.12 but ONLY if you earned a C or higher.

Students are required to read the textbook chapters that coordinate with the syllabus with special emphasis on the case studies included at the end of each chapter. Students complete end of chapter questions which include a minimum of two problems with mathematical calculations. Students take a quiz on two or three chapters approximately every week and one half. Four unit tests are given throughout the semester.

Approximate point breakdown for the year:

30-40% quizzes and exams

15% labs in class

15% major projects

20-30% independent assignments and homework (nightly assignments and lab reports / smaller projects)

**Absences**:

It is your responsibility to come see me and find out what you missed. It is also your responsibility to hand in assignments without me hounding you! Use the website if possible to catch up on missed notes and assignments. Classes are numbered, so use the number system to get caught up on a specific missed class.

http://www.dragon.k12.pa.us/facstaff/HS/wagner\_v/www/apes.htm

**Safety**

The science room has chemicals, gas burners, sharp science tools, many electrical outlets, and many other dangerous implements of destruction! Behave in a mature manner at all times. We can laugh, joke around, and have fun but this not a playground. Some of the labs we do are college level science! Very cool, but classes must prove their responsibility to do these labs. **My #1 responsibility is your safety!** When I give you instructions, you MUST follow them completely.

**Tips**

Keep a well organized notebook. Number each day.

Always write down the bell ringers! The exams tend to include all bell ringer questions!

Minimize absences / check on website for missed work or see me!

http://www.dragon.k12.pa.us/facstaff/HS/wagner\_v/www/apes.htm

**Topics To Be Covered**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| UNIT | Textbook Chapter | Content/Topic |
| 1 – Introduction to Environmental Science | Chapter 1  Chapter 2 | Science and the Environmental  Environmental Law, Econ, ethics |
| 2 – Ecology | Chapter 3  Chapter 4  Chapter 5  Chapter 6 | Ecosystems and Energy  Ecosystems and the Phy Env.  Ecosystems and Living Organisms  Major Ecosystems of the World |
| 3 – Populations and pollution | Chapter 7  Chapter 8  Chapter 9  Chapter 19  Chapter 20  Chapter 21 | Human Health and Env. Toxicity  Human Population  Urban Environment  Air  Climate Change  Water |
| 4 – Water, Air, and Land | Chapter 13  Chapter 14  Chapter 15  Chapter 16  Chapter 17 | Water  Soil  Minerals  Biological Resources  Land |
| 5 – Food, minerals, and Energy Resources | Chapter 11  Chapter 12 Chapter 18 | Mining and Mineral Resources  Nonrenewable Energy  Food |
| 6 – Our Health and Our Future | Chapter 22  Chapter 23  Chapter 24 | Pest Management  Solid and Hazardous Waste  The future |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Required Materials**  Students are expected to come to class fully prepared and on time each day with the following materials:   1. A 3-ring binder with 4 sections: Notes, Assignments, Labs, Current Events 2. Pencils and pens to write with everyday 3. Loose leaf paper 4. Textbook | **Grading Policy**  Assignments will include tests, quizzes, labs, homework, class work, and projects. A variety of assessment strategies are used to benefit all students. The point value for each assignment will be determined by the amount of work required and the content covered by the assignment. Rubrics will be provided when an assignment is given if appropriate.   * Tests will be given at the end of unit covered. (see course outline) * Quizzes will be announced. You should expect a quiz at the end of each chapter, primarily focusing on vocabulary and major topics in each chapter. |
| **Expectations**  Students are expected to be courteous and respectful toward classmates and school staff members. Some ways in which you can demonstrate these qualities:  Respect for your education by:   * Keeping an organized notebook. * Checking your grade often to ensure missing work is completed and the maintenance of a satisfactory grade. * Completing all assignments on time * Bringing the required materials each day.   Respect for yourself by:   * Dressing appropriately for school. * Doing YOUR best work all of the time.   Respect for your peers and teacher by:   * Coming to class on time and being in your seat working before the bell rings.   Following all school policies at all times, including no hats/hoods, no electronics (including cell phones), only clear water no other food or drinks. | **Homework**  Homework will be essential for understanding the material presented in class and the material found on quizzes and tests. Be prepared each day by having you homework thoroughly completed.   * Homework will most often be spot checked (quick glance as I walk around the room) for completion. * Homework grades:   + √ – homework is complete, neat and appears to be the result of time and effort (2 points)   + √ - – homework is incomplete, very sloppy or not legible (1 point)   + 0 – not done (0 points) * Late homework will not be accepted as we will discuss the homework during class. You should correct your work. * Copying homework or allowing another student to copy is cheating. Any offenders will receive a zero on the assignment and will result in a written referral to administration. |
| **Consequences for Inappropriate Choices**   * Verbal Reminder and/or conference with student * Parent contact and/or conference with parent * Written referral to Administration | **Make-up Work and Late Assignments**   * It is the **student’s responsibility** to get any class work and homework assignments missed while absent from school and to reschedule and quizzes, tests, or labs missed, as well. * Only work that is turned in on time will have the opportunity of receiving full credit. * When you are absent, work is due the first day back. This includes projects. * When you are absent on an exam day, you should be prepared to make up the exam the first scheduled flex or dragon lair. * Projects submitted after the assigned due date will lose 10% for each day late. |

**Quiz Retake policy:**

You may retake quizzes in a unit until the Unit Exam is given. The quiz retake policy details determination of quiz retakes.

* Advanced Proficient - ≥ 95.0 % - You really know your content-no retake
* Proficient - < 95.0% but ≥ 75.0% - Room for improvement-one retake
* Basic or Below Basic - < 75% - You can do better-two retakes
* Your highest score on a retake will count – not to exceed 95%.
* You must correct your previous quiz or meet with me to go over the correct answers before you can retake quiz. Also, all homework used to prepare for the quiz must be completed prior to completing the retake.

***Please note: All policies outlined in this information packet are subject to change by Mr. Wagner if circumstances in the classroom warrant a change. All students and parents will be notified in writing if a change in policies occur and will take effect on the beginning of a new marking period.***