



**Textbook:** *Living in the Environment*, by Tyler Miller and Scott Spoolman, AP Edition, 18<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2015, National Geographic Learning

**Office Hours:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 8:45-9:20 am. Other times by appointment.

**Course Description:** (taken from the College Board's APES website)

The AP Environmental Science course is designed to be the equivalent of a one-semester, introductory college course in environmental science. The course goal is 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 human-made, to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and to examine alternative solutions for resolving and/or preventing them.

Environmental science is interdisciplinary; it embraces a wide variety of topics from different areas of study. Yet there are several major unifying constructs, or themes, that cut across the many topics included in the study of environmental science.

**Course Materials & Supplies:**

- Textbook: *Living in the Environment*, by Tyler Miller and Scott Spoolman, AP Edition, 18<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2015, National Geographic Learning
- One 2-inch 3-ring binder for notes, classwork, and homework
- One ½ inch 3-ring binder OR three prong folder for labs
- 1 composition book
- Lined paper, writing utensils
- Insect repellent, sunscreen, and old shoes as needed on days we work outside

The following supplies are not required but would greatly benefit the class if you were to bring them in ☺:

- Clorox/Lysol Sanitizing Wipes
- Hand Sanitizer
- Tissues
- Paper Towels

**Topic Outline:** (also taken from the College Board's APES Website. Topics will not necessarily be covered in this order, but the percentages reflect the weighting of topics on the APES exam.)

- I. Earth Systems and Resources (10-15%)
- II. The Living World (12-16%)
- III. Population (10-15%)
- IV. Land and Water Use (10-15%)
- V. Energy Resources and Consumption (10-15%)
- VI. Pollution (14-20%)
- VII. Global Change (15-20%)

## **Grading**

Your grade will be calculated using weighted percent categories as follows:

Category	Percentages
Summative Assessments (Unit Tests)	75%
Formative Assessments (Quizzes, Labs, Homework, In Class Activities, & Projects)	25%

These percentages are subject to change by marking period as determined by the Science Department. You will be notified of any changes to the grading weighted percent categories.

**Late Work Policy:** Assignments can be turned in at any point up until the unit test. However, assignments that are turned in after the scheduled due date will be subject to 50% reduction. No late work will be accepted after the end of each quarter.

**Remediation Policy:** Students will be given three different remediation opportunities per quarter in order to improve their overall summative average. These opportunities are outlined below:

- Writing Conferences – Students are allotted one opportunity per quarter to sign up for a writing conference. During the writing conference, missed concepts and skills will be discussed. Students will have the opportunity to add 8% points back to their overall exam score.
- Mock AP FRQ Session – The very last Wednesday of the quarter, students can participate in a mock AP FRQ session. Students will sign up prior to this Wednesday, and will be provided three AP style free response questions. Students must attempt all three FRQ's in the allotted 90 minutes. The highest scoring FRQ can replace up to all three FRQ scores from their unit tests.
- Quarter Cumulative Final (QCF) – At the end of the quarter, students will be provided a cumulative exam that covers all information for the year up until that point. Students have the ability to score up to a 100% on the QCF. For students who score higher on the QCF than their summative average, all summative scores will be replaced with their QCF score.

## **Laboratory work:**

**An average of one class period per week will be devoted to hands-on laboratory work.** Some laboratory activities may span several days. Labs encourage you to think critically, observe environmental systems, design and conduct controlled experiments, utilize appropriate techniques and instruments, present data graphically, analyze and interpret data using common statistics, form conclusions, and propose further study.

There are 8 lab reports assigned throughout the year. These will be assessed in the Formative category. Graded lab reports will be kept in a folder and will be kept in the classroom. At the end of the year, students will turn in their lab folder for a summative grade.

Safety is the most important consideration while participating in all lab activities. All safety rules MUST be followed at all times. Students need to be on task and working quietly with their group. Gum chewing, eating, and drinking are not allowed during laboratory work.

Colleges sometimes require students to present their laboratory materials from AP science courses before granting college credit for laboratory work. Students will be required to keep all of their lab work in a separate binder that will be graded at the end of each semester.

## Absences & Make-Up Work: *From the St. Johns County School District Student Code of Conduct 2019-2020*

### Excused Absences:

When a student is absent from school with an excused absence, the student shall be responsible for all work and assignments missed during the student's absence. The student shall make arrangements with teachers for "make-up" work and will complete it within a reasonable time frame (as determined by the school) upon the student's return to schools. Coursework, test, and quizzes can be made up at 100% credit.

### Unexcused Absences:

When a student has an unexcused absence, it is the responsibility of the student to complete all coursework, tests, and quizzes and turn them in to the appropriate teacher. A student shall have one day to complete and turn in the work for each day the student is absent (i.e., in the event of a 3 day absence, the student has 3 days to complete and turn in the assignments) and may only earn 50% credit. Tests and quizzes can be made up at 100% credit. There is no expectation that the student's teacher or teachers will recreate lessons, lectures, or labs for an unexcused absence.

**Unexcused absence without parental knowledge/consent, or absence from class without a written excuse from a teacher/administrator** will result in NO CREDIT for coursework, tests, and quizzes missed during the absence.

**If a student is absent the day of a test, they will be expected to take it the day they return.** If a student is absent the day before a test, the student will still be required to take the test the day they return to class, provided that no new material was taught the day there were absent.

### Schoology:

All class PowerPoints, guided notes, assignments, study guides, test reviews, and important documents will be on our class Schoology page. I will do my best to keep a course calendar on Schoology. There is a calendar in the class where all important dates will be displayed. I encourage you to set calendar reminders in your phone and write down the dates in your school provided planner. You will receive an access code to join the class on Schoology. **Each student will be required to join the class Schoology page.**

<https://stjohnsschools.schoology.com>

Schoology Access Code: \_\_\_\_\_

FINALLY, there is no magic formula for good grades. If you ***read and take notes*** on your assigned readings, ***ask questions*** before school or during class to clarify concepts you're uncertain about, ***participate*** in class activities, ***complete classwork and homework assignments on time***, and ***review*** prior to tests, you'll likely earn at least a B and possibly an A.

Acknowledgement Page

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_

