

AP Environmental Science (APES) Fall 2024 and Spring 2025

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Text: ***ENVIRONMENT: The Science Behind the Stories***, 7th Edition, AP Edition by Withgott and Laposata. Cost \$150.98

This is a college level course. You are expected to be responsible for your own learning and know how you learn best. We will be using an “issues-based” curriculum in which concepts are taught within the framework of current, real-world issues and concerns. The course will involve lab and group activities, although other approaches including discussion, lecture, reading, and writing will also be used.

I will try to accommodate different learning styles. Let me know what works best for you and I will help you find the resources. Be prepared to do a lot of reading.

Unit Work

Read the chapter and assigned supplements **BEFORE** we discuss it in class.

Define the terms and complete chosen assignment.

- There will be a writing assignment.
- We will start out by analyzing essays others have written and I will ease you into writing your own. Some essays will be timed, in-class writings. Some will be take-home assignments on the AP Classroom platform.
- There will be multiple quizzes.
- There will be at least one lab. Some will require formal reports. All will require data collection and analysis.
- There will be a test; mostly they will be formatted like the AP test. Occasionally a project will be graded as a test.
- There will be current issues readings and reviews.

Grading will be weighted

The semester grades are made up of a combination of Formative (40%) and Summative (60%) assessments.

- At the end of a semester course, the Final Course Average is calculated with 90% (semester grade) and the Final Exam, 10%.

You will need:

- A College Board account
- A binder for handouts, notes and graded work
- A 100-page composition book for lab data collection and 1 one inch three ring binder for lab reports.
- Note cards for making flashcards (Not required)
- A calculator
- Colored pencils

BIG IDEAS

Although Environmental Science is interdisciplinary, there are several big ideas that are the framework for the course. The following big ideas provide a foundation for the structure of the AP Environmental Science course. Revisiting the big ideas and applying them in a variety of contexts allows students to develop deeper conceptual understanding.

BIG IDEA 1: ENERGY TRANSFER (ENG) Energy conversions underlie all ecological processes. Energy cannot be created; it must come from somewhere. As energy flows through systems, at each step, more of it becomes unusable.

BIG IDEA 2: INTERACTIONS BETWEEN EARTH SYSTEMS (ERT) The Earth is one interconnected system. Natural systems change over time and space. Biogeochemical systems vary in ability to recover from disturbances.

BIG IDEA 3: INTERACTIONS BETWEEN DIFFERENT SPECIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT (EIN) Humans alter natural systems and have had an impact on the environment for millions of years. Technology and population growth have enabled humans to increase both the rate and scale of their impact on the environment.

BIG IDEA 4: SUSTAINABILITY (STB) Human survival depends on developing practices that will achieve sustainable systems. A suitable combination of conservation and development is required. The management of resources is essential. Understanding the role of cultural, social, and economic factors is vital to the development of solutions.

APES Study Halls

APES study halls are scheduled to be during FAB Wednesdays. There will also be several afterschool study hall sessions throughout the year.

Missed Tests, Quizzes, and Labs

Students that miss an assignment, such as a test, quiz, or lab will make up that assignment during the science study hall, Tuesday and Thursday starting at 3:40pm or FAB Wednesday sessions. Class time will not be used to make up missed assignments as this causes students to fall further behind in class.

Academic Dishonesty

Students are expected to complete class assignments, homework, tests, etc. on their own unless given permission to work together. Plagiarism, whether intentional or not, is not acceptable for any assignment. Academic dishonesty violations will result in a grade of zero for the assignment, and an academic dishonesty report will be filed.

APES Exam:

The exam is scheduled for Tuesday May 13, 2025 at 12:00pm. Students and parents will need to decide whether to take the AP exam for this class by November 1, 2024. The student cost per exam will be \$50.00. The order form and fee are due by November 15, 2024 to Mrs. Surrect.

STEM classes, including Environmental Science, and Free/reduced lunch students will be able to get ONE free AP exam (total).