



**FIVE High School
Science
Environmental Science
2022-23 Course Syllabus**

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Planning Periods: 1A,5B

Course Catalog Description

Environmental Science is a multidisciplinary course that utilizes a variety of teaching methodology to address key concepts regarding aspects of environmental science. Laboratory experiences and project-based applications will help students learn about pollution and conservation topics relevant in the 21st century.

Course Sequence/Pacing Overview

The core areas that are covered in Environmental Science include:

1. Introduction and Recent Developments in Environmental Science
2. Ecology
3. Populations
4. Water, Air and Land
5. Mineral and Energy Resources
6. The Future of Environments of the Earth

Course Grading Policies and Assessments

The student's quarterly grade will be determined through a point system. The student's grade will be calculated by adding all earned points and dividing that sum by the total possible number of points. The midterm exam will account for 20% of the first semester grade. The final exam will account for 20% of the second semester grade. First and second semester grades are then averaged together to obtain the final course grade.

- A. **Methods of Assessment:** Students will be assessed by performance on the South Carolina state standards using quizzes, tests, laboratories and homework completion. Students will at times be assigned projects, which will be counted as tests. Students will work in small groups at times to aid each other in developing problem solving techniques. Students will work with assigned laboratory partners during laboratory exercises.
- B. Periodic and/or daily quizzes will be given to ascertain the students' understanding. A test will be given upon completion of each section of study. Unit tests may be given for some units of study. Unit tests may cover one or several chapters in the textbook and will require considerable time. **Questions on quizzes and unit tests will include materials covered during class, in assigned readings from the text, and from laboratories.** You should anticipate homework following most class meetings. Homework assignments will vary and could include required reading, answering questions based on reading or class instruction, and completion of projects or lab



investigations. Homework assignments should require between twenty and forty minutes each night.

- C. Each student is expected to have assignments, lab reports, etc. prepared on the due date. *Most assignments (except tests are due by 11:59pm Sunday night.)*
- D. *Grade progress can be monitored via the PowerSchool Parent Portal system found online at <https://powerschool1.lex5.k12.sc.us/public>.*

Missing assignments will be recorded as a 45 when grades are entered and changed accordingly upon student submission following the make-up and late work policies.

VII. Grading Procedures

Continuing in the 2022-23 school year, grades for minor assignments will be posted within 5 school days, and major or extended assignment grades will be posted within 10 school days.

- **Point Values for Assignments**
 - Test = 100 pts
 - Quiz = 50 pts
 - Labs/Projects = 50 pts
 - Classwork/Homework = 50 pts

Exam Exemptions - Policy updated for 2022-23 school year.

Seniors can exempt exams in semester classes and yearlong classes if they meet the following conditions:

1. Grade of 80 or higher in the course.
2. Has not had an In-School Suspension or an Out of School Suspension.

Honor Code

In order to foster an environment of mutual trust and respect, we believe, within the community of School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties, each individual should accept the personal responsibility to exhibit and promote academic and social integrity. *Students will not cheat or plagiarize.*

Suggestions for Success in Course

A. Pay Attention In Class

- a. Ninety-five percent of the test items will be discussed in class. Students should come prepared with questions and ready to participate in class discussions.

B. Complete Assignments On Time

- a. Completing assignments and turning them in on time is one of the most important things a student can do to ensure that they understand the material required for exams. Additionally, this gives ample opportunity to seek help for concepts that the student needs further assistance with.

C. Read

- a. By reading assigned texts (especially the text in guided notes, laboratory instructions, assigned readings, etc.), the information presented in class will be more easily understood. Reading a science texts is not like reading a novel. Reading science texts



requires a slower pace and attention to detail. Reading the text before the material is discussed allows the student to come prepared to class with questions.

D. Learn The Vocabulary

- a. Each unit has numerous vocabulary words that the student will need to learn in order to understand what the instructor is discussing and what questions on quizzes and tests are asking. Understanding the vocabulary is critical to success in Biology.

E. Review Each Night

- a. Don't wait until the night before to try to learn everything. Cramming for a Biology test will not be advantageous. It is suggested that students spend at least 20 minutes EACH NIGHT reviewing their Biology content.

F. ASK FOR HELP

- a. If you do not understand the topic being discussed, ask questions, ask for help, or ask for clarification. I will be happy to help you any time I can. Remember you can always email me questions, or ask them through Google Classroom. Additionally, you can visit me during Academic Assistance time on Thursdays.

XI. Classroom Management Plan

- A. Students are expected to be on time to class and to comport themselves with dignity and displaying respect for classmates and their instructor. Students are expected to follow all rules and guidelines listed in the Student Handbook on the school's website.
- B. Students are expected to use school and personal technology responsibly and follow rules included in the [21-22 District 5 Mobile Device Guide](#) and [Acceptable Use Agreement](#). This includes:
 - a. Having a charged mobile device (district-issued Chromebook or comparable personal device) during school EVERYDAY.

Uniform Grading Scale

See [State Department of Education website](#) for complete details. All report cards and transcripts will use numerical grades.

A=90-100; B=80-89; C=70-79; D=60-69; F=Below 60

XIII. Student/Teacher and Parent/Teacher Communication

- A. All students should use district issued email accounts for communicating with teachers (studentnumber@stu.lexrich5.org).
- B. All students should check school email, Google Classroom and Google Calendar every school day.
- C. Parents and students should check the teachers' websites for classroom calendars/assignment sheets.
- D. Parents may contact teachers via email in order to receive invitations to Google Classroom parent/guardian signup. Parents will receive an email from Google and then need to register to receive emails from Google Classroom. Once a parent is registered to receive emails from one class, he/she will receive emails from all Google Classroom groups. It is not necessary to contact all teachers to register.
- E. Emails and phone calls to teachers will be returned within two business days.
- F. Parents and students who would like access to the parent/student PowerSchool portals should visit their home school attendance office for login information.



Attendance and Make-up Work Policy

Students will be considered present when students are logged in the same time the teacher is providing live instruction.

If you are experiencing technical difficulties, you must communicate with your teacher immediately. Your teacher will then provide you with information and/or assignments to be completed in order for you to be marked present during the time your computer was inoperable.

It is imperative that you maintain an open line of communication with your teacher in regards to your attendance. If for any reason you are unable to attend class, contact your teacher. Please provide any documentation for any absence to your home school Attendance Clerk.

No late work will be accepted after the quarter. Students will be directed to APEX or teacher created content if eligible for content recovery after grades have been turned in for the quarter. Assignment due dates will be clearly listed and communicated to students. If a student misses an agreed upon due date on a major assignment, the parents will be notified of the missing assignment.