

Environmental Science

2017-18 Course Syllabus

A. Linwood Holton Governor's School

Instructor: Mrs. Julie Reimer

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Course Description

This course explores the role of humans in the environment with an emphasis on sustainable solutions to environmental problems. During this course, students will be challenged to use their new knowledge of natural systems to create solutions for current environmental issues. Topics will include ecological systems, populations, environmental health, sustainable farming, biodiversity, climate issues, water use and pollution, conventional and sustainable energy, waste issues, and environmental economics. This course will also discuss the unique and wonderful natural resources in our Appalachian region.

This asynchronous online course will help students strengthen their independent study skills and time management skills. It is also the instructor's goal to teach students to read and write scientific texts. This course is designed to cultivate an appreciation for the natural world and to promote scientific problem solving skills.

This class is a dual enrollment course and 6 college credits will be awarded upon successful completion of the course. College credits are offered through one of four community colleges based on the location of the high school the student attends. The four community colleges that may be awarding the credit are Mountain Empire Community College, Southwest Virginia Community College, Virginia Highlands Community College, and Wytheville Community College. To contact the A. Linwood Holton Governor's School:

A Linwood Holton Governor's School

P. O. Box 1987

Abingdon, VA 24210

(276) 619-4326

www.hgs.k12.va.us

Text

Molles and Borrell. [Environment: Science, Issues, Solutions](#)

Textbooks are loaned to the student and must be returned at the end of the course

Online access to Launchpad, which contains an electronic copy of the textbook and additional study resources.

Course delivery

This course will be facilitated through the Virginia Community College System's Blackboard website. The login portal for the course is: <https://vh.my.vccs.edu/> This course is asynchronous, meaning there is no daily class meeting time. The instructor may be contacted via email, and office hours will be held in Blackboard Collaborate. The time for office hours are TBA in hopes that a time suitable for all students can be selected.

Assessment and grading policies

Course grades will be calculated as follows:

20% Launchpad assignments

(online Textbook space with review assignments)

15% Thought Papers

(informal writing assignments reflecting on assigned readings or videos)

25% Projects and laboratories

10% Discussion forum

25% Tests

5% Cumulative Final Exam

Expectations for each assignment will be clearly explained throughout the course. Please ask questions any time you are concerned or confused about an assignment.

Grading Scale:

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

The HGS submits numeric grades to your home high school. Your high school may use a different grade scale for your letter grade. The HGS letter grade will be submitted to community colleges for your dual enrollment grade.

Course Policies

Announcements: Check your ALHGS email and Blackboard daily for any updates.

Course Pacing: Assignments and related information will be organized into weekly units. Units will become available on Fridays and will culminate with a unit test the following Friday. All due dates will be clearly marked on each assignment. Daily participation in the Blackboard discussion forum is an expectation. Unit pacing and Friday tests will be adjusted for school holidays as needed.

Attendance and make-up work: You are expected to participate in all activities and submit all assignments by their due dates. The attendance policies and expectations of your home high school are to be followed.

In the event that an absence will prevent you from taking a test or submitting an assignment on time, email the instructor as soon as you are aware of the conflict. Make up tests or adjusted assignment deadlines will be coordinated by the instructor and the proctor at your home high school.

Assignment submission: Written assignments must be submitted through Blackboard by the date and time due. Points will be deducted for late submissions. Place the following information at the top of the first page of each assignment:

Your full name
Your home high school name
The assignment title

Honesty and plagiarism: All assignments will be submitted under an honor pledge to show independent work. Academic honesty is required; any student caught cheating will receive a failing grade for that assignment and will risk expulsion from the course. For written assignments, any wording that does not belong to the student must be cited properly to show the original author. Recycling non-renewable resources like aluminum is good, but recycling other people's writing is a very bad thing called plagiarism! Proper citation styles will be discussed during the course.

Information and instructions for individuals with disabilities: Students may request academic accommodations for identified disabilities through ALHGS's main office (276-619-4326). We will evaluate the request, consult with appropriate officials from the student's home school, and develop a plan that outlines necessary and reasonable accommodations to be followed. All correspondence will be kept confidential.