

Environmental Science and Related Problems

2013-2014 Course Syllabus

Instructor: Mrs. Julie Reimer
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Phone: 276-619-4357

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. Even though the course is taught online, students will spend time outside on their assignments. 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 college course will move quickly, and it is the instructor's goal to strengthen students' study skills and teach students to read and write scientific texts. Students will be required to do the following outside of class: read the textbook, complete project and laboratory assignments, and study for quizzes and tests. This course is designed to cultivate an appreciation for the natural world and to promote scientific problem solving skills.

Text

William P. and Mary Ann Cunningham, Environmental Science: A Global Concern, 12th Edition, McGraw-Hill, 2012.

Lab kit and project supplies

Supplies for certain projects will be stationed at your home school for use throughout the course. These items are the property of the A. Linwood Holton Governor's School and are expected to be returned in the same condition they were issued.

Course delivery

This course is taught in the virtual classroom of the A. Linwood Holton Governor's School (HGS). The virtual classroom is accessed through the HGS website: www.hgs.k12.va.us. All class sessions will be archived, and can be accessed from the HGS website. Sessions will be available for approximately two weeks after the date of each class session. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to view the archived class session to make up missed material.

Assessment and grading policies

Course grades will be calculated using a total point system based on thought papers, projects, lab reports, review questions, quizzes, tests, and midterm/final exams. This course will move quickly, so it is important to complete all assignments and study new information every day. Expectations for each assignment will be clearly explained throughout the course. Please ask questions any time you are concerned 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

Daily announcements: Check your HGS email and our course site at the beginning of each school day for updates and assignments.

Internet use: Resist the temptation to become sidetracked by other computer programs during class time. You are expected to take notes, participate in class discussions, and ask questions during class. Remember that your instructor can glimpse your computer screen at any time during class without your knowledge. Being caught off-task could cause you to be dismissed from the class session.

Attendance and make-up work: You are expected to attend all class sessions and participate in all activities and assignments. If you miss a class session, it is your responsibility to contact the instructor within 3 class days to schedule make-up assignments. Adjusted deadlines for make-up assignments will be determined by the instructor.

Assignment submission: Written assignments should be emailed to the instructor at jreimer@hgs.k12.va.us 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

Your HGS class and meeting time (Env. Science 12:10 or Env. Science 1:40)

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 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 HGS'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.