

AP Environmental Science (APES)

Syllabus 2019-2020

Teacher	Mr. M. Gordon Rm. 345, Main Campus
Phone	(510) 618-4600 x2345
Email	mgordon@slusd.us (school email); gordonmarc22@gmail.com (alternative email) {Email is the BEST way to contact teacher ... expect response generally w/in 48hrs}
Office Hours	Wednesdays 2:34-3:15; Lunchtime Daily is Ok
Text	"Living In The Environment"- Miller/Spoolman – CENGAGE Learning 19e
Exam Book	Test Preparation Exam Study Book i.e. Barron's, Prentice Hall, 5 Steps To A 5, etc.
Notebook	You will need to bring a thin 3-Ring Binder or Folder w/three fasteners that can open/close
News	Regular monitoring of current environmental issues in news media will enhance course

Description

This **STEM** course satisfies two semesters of **Physical Science requirement for High School Graduation** AND also **1 year of "d" Laboratory Science and/or 1 year of "g" College Preparatory Elective requirement** for UC/CSU. It follows the recommended College Board Standards for Environmental Science Education. Emphasis is placed on **the science** of environmental issues. The goal of the course is to provide students with the *scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies* required to understand *interrelationships* of the natural world. Both natural and human-induced environmental problems are identified and analyzed. The seven main topics covered comprising the APES Exam are **I. Earth Systems and Resources; II. The Living World; III. Population; IV. Land and Water Use; V. Energy Resources and Consumption; VI. Pollution; VII. Global Change. Importantly, Sustainability is a key theme that threads throughout the entire course and is 1st topic.**

All students taking AP Environmental Science are expected to **take** the **APES Exam** in order to receive "AP Environmental Science" course credit on their High School Transcript, regardless of score. Students are generally expected to spend up to **5hrs of independent studying each week** outside the classroom in preparation for the exam. A formal APES study book (i.e. Barron's, Princeton Review) may be very helpful. **The APES Exam is challenging...** yet it is but one aspect of this course. Understanding **the science of environmental issues** and learning how to be **better stewards of planet Earth** are among the *highest* goals of this course. Diligent study will increase your chances of earning a score of 3 or higher. The course is the *equivalent* of a *one-semester of introductory college-level environmental science course*.

**All students are required to turn in signed 'SLHS Student Agreement for AP' form.*

Expectations

Your teacher takes the classroom learning environment *very serious* and so should you! *Serious classroom behavior* is expected. **Bring your materials** and expect to **participate** daily in class activities. The classroom is a *safe space* for all to learn.

Attendance

Regular daily attendance is required to receive a passing grade *based on achievement*. Make-up work policy allows for work to be turned in one day late per absence... it is the **student's responsibility to take initiative** to find out what was missed. *Expect* to have to get make up assignments **outside of class time**. **Punctuality** is also very important.

Late Work

Late work will be accepted initially at a **reduction** of -10% per day late. After **5 days** assignments may be accepted for 50% credit. Still it is better to turn in late work at 50% credit to replace zeros, than to have zeros for assignments.

Grades

Grades reflect a student's degree of **mastery of the content objectives** for this course also assignment **completion** and **study habits**. Grades serve as a communication to student, parents and community of the level of such mastery. Grades are **NOT judgments** about people but do reflect **quality & quantity** of assigned work done.

All individual assignments will be evaluated using an American Standard grading scale:
i.e. 90-100% A, 80-89% B, etc.

Grading for GPA is **weighted** for "C" mark or higher i.e. A=5pts, B=4pts, C=3pts

Assignments will contribute toward your total **final grade** as follows:

- 15% Classwork/Participation/Binder
- 15% Homework/Labs
- 15% Term Paper/Project
- 40% Quizzes/Tests
- 15% Term Exam(s)

Re-Takes '**Test Corrections**' allowed for low scores/**1** Quiz per Qtr. **Earn** back 50% of pts. lost.
i.e. 1. Copy Question, 2. State Correct Answer, 3. Justify/Explain Logic for Answer

Homework Homework is typically assigned to be a workload of the *equivalent* of four days a week. Typical assignments include Outlines, Vocabulary, Section Review, Critical Thinking, Assigned Reading Reviews, Computer Lab Problem Sets, Current Event Essays, Lab Report, Field Studies, etc.

Aeries The **Aeries** online grade book will be used to report assignments and is *typically* updated **weekly**. A posting of "NA" usually means the assignment was turned in but not yet scored and in the meantime will not count negatively toward the overall grade total percentage. "NA" generally counts as a higher grade mark and will sometimes remain for an assignment that is just checked as '**turned in**' by not graded.

Cheating Cheating of any kind is not acceptable and will not be tolerated. Violators may face punishment. Examples of cheating include *copying work of another student, permitting another student to copy your work, doing someone else's assignment, using unauthorized sources of information during quiz or test, and plagiarism*. **The Key: Each student must originally do his/her own work to receive credit for that particular assignment.**

Rules Students are expected to follow **all school rules** i.e. no cussing; **no use of electronic devices** (i.e. cell phone, music player, video games) **EXCEPT** for before school, lunch, after school;

Specific Classroom Rules

1. Follow directions the 1st time they are given
2. Be silent while teacher is talking to class
3. Ask permission to leave seat
4. Participate in classwork each day
5. Be respectful to others (i.e. words, body language)

Procedures There will be several procedures students must learn for the classroom to be a clean, orderly and safe environment. Here are a few of them:

Beginning of Class Period

1. Enter class quietly
2. Immediately go to your assigned seat
3. Get out your materials for Classwork
4. Begin Warm Up
5. Copy daily objective and agenda

End of Class Period

1. Put away materials and clean areas
2. Remain **seated** and quietly wait for teacher inspection and dismissal

Class Quiet

1. Countdown "3, 2, 1" (quiet)

Follow Up Please be sure to take notice of hints and warnings so as to **correct your own behavior**
Embrace the processes of growth and maturity! Best it is for you to **develop self-discipline!**

