

Environmental Science

Course Overview and Syllabus

Course Number: SC2028

Grade level: 10–12

Prerequisite Courses: None

Credits: 1.0

Course Description

Environmental science is a captivating and rapidly expanding field, and this two-semester course offers compelling lessons that cover many different aspects of the field: ecology, the biosphere, land, forests and soil, water, energy and resources, and societies and policy. Through unique activities and material, high school students connect scientific theory and concepts to current, real-world dilemmas, providing them with opportunities for mastery in each of the segments throughout the semester.

Course Objectives

Throughout the course, you will meet the following goals:

- Understand the interrelationships in the natural world
- Examine the natural cycles of energy flow and evaluate how human interaction affects these cycles
- Model real-world phenomena and determine possible consequences of specific actions
- Defend the best choices to protect the environment with changing trends in human demographics
- Interpret evidence and communicate scientifically about environmental conditions and hazards

Student Expectations

This course requires the same level of commitment from you as a traditional classroom course would. Throughout the course, you are expected to spend approximately 5–7 hours per week online on the following activities:

- Interactive lessons that include a mixture of instructional videos and tasks
- Assignments in which you apply and extend learning in each lesson
- Assessments, including quizzes, tests, and cumulative exams

Communication

Your teacher will communicate with you regularly through discussions, email, chat, and system announcements. You will also communicate with classmates, either via online tools or face to face,

as you collaborate on project, ask and answer questions in your peer group, and develop speaking and listening skills.

Grading Policy

You will be graded on the work you do online and the work you submit electronically to your teacher. The weighting for each category of graded activity is listed below.

Grading Category	Weight
Assignments	10%
Labs	10%
Lesson Quizzes	30%
Unit Tests	30%
Cumulative Exams	20%
Additional	0%

Scope and Sequence

When you log into the Virtual Classroom, you can view the entire course map, which provides a scope and sequence of all topics you will study. Clicking a lesson's link in the course map leads to a page listing instructional activities, assignments, and learning objectives specific to that lesson. The units of study are summarized below:

Unit 1: The Scientific Method

Unit 2: Ecology

Unit 3: The Biosphere

Unit 4: The Land

Unit 5: Forests and Soil

Unit 6: The Water

Unit 7: Energy and Resources

Unit 8: Societies and Policy