

Environmental Science Class Syllabus

2018 – 2019

Teacher: Mrs. Hill

Website: hillsciencenwhs.weebly.com

Email: khill@new-waverly.k12.tx.us

Phone: (936) 344-6451

Room: 301

Course Description

In Environmental Science, you will conduct laboratory and field investigations, use scientific methods during those investigations, and make informed decisions using critical thinking and scientific problem solving. You will study a variety of topics that include: biotic and abiotic factors in habitats, ecosystems and biomes, interrelationships among resources and an environmental system, sources and flow of energy through an environmental system, relationship between carrying capacity and changes in populations and ecosystems, and changes in environments. Successful students will understand the difference between scientific decision-making methods and ethical and social decisions that involve the application of scientific information. Additionally, successful students will be able to analyze a system in terms of its components and how those components relate to each other, to the whole, and to the external environment.

Class Rules

1. Choose Civility: Be respectful of your teacher, yourself, and your peers.
2. Follow Directions.
3. Come to class prepared everyday with pen, paper, book, and composition book.
4. Be in your seat working when the tardy bell rings and continue to work until your teacher dismisses you.

Consequences (for failure to comply with class rules)

Step 1: Verbal Warning

Step 2: Student-Teacher Intervention

Step 3: Parent-Teacher Communication

Step 4: Referral to Principal's Office

**Disclaimer: Steps may be skipped based on the severity of an infraction.*

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action.

Academic dishonesty is defined as: cheating, plagiarism or otherwise obtaining grades under false pretenses.

Plagiarism is defined as submitting the language, ideas, thoughts or work of another as one's own; or assisting in the act of plagiarism by allowing one's work to be used in this fashion.

Cheating is defined as (1) obtaining or providing unauthorized information during an examination through verbal, visual or unauthorized use of books, notes, text and other materials; (2) obtaining or providing information concerning all or part of an examination prior to that examination; (3) taking an examination for another student, or arranging for another person to take an exam in one's place; (4) altering or changing test answers after submittal for grading, grades after grades have been awarded, or other academic records once these are official.

What I Expect of You

- Come to class ready to learn with a good attitude and open mind.
- Bring your pen, paper, book, and composition book to class every day.
- Work hard and do your best.
- Follow **ALL** safety rules in the lab.
- Meet your deadlines.
- Take pride in the work you do and turn in for this class.
- Remember and practice "Safety 1st" in the lab – ALWAYS.

What You can Expect from Me

- I have high expectations for my students and myself.
- I will give you homework and I expect you will do it.
- I will record tardies for anyone not in their seats working when the tardy bell rings.
- I will challenge you to think.
- I will be fair in my assessments.
- I will be supportive, helpful, and approachable.
- I will **NOT** do your work for you.

Grading Information

Six Week Test (comprehensive)	= 20%
Major Work & Tests (tests, labs, & projects)	= 50%
Daily grades (classwork, homework & quizzes)	= <u>30%</u>
Total	= 100%

Note: During the 3rd and 6th six weeks no six week test will be given. The percentages for those grading periods are as follows.

No Six Week Test	= 0%
Major Work & Tests (tests, labs, & projects)	= 70%
Daily grades (classwork, homework & quizzes)	= <u>30%</u>
Total	= 100%

Please Be Aware:

- I do not allow "retakes" or "test corrections" on my tests. Be prepared on test day. Come ask for help ahead of time if you need it.
- Work must be turned in on time to receive consideration for full credit.
- **Late work:**
 - 1 day after the original due date -10 points
 - NOT accepted after 1 day late grade will be recorded as a "0"
- **Extra credit** assignments for each chapter are due no later than the beginning of class on test day. They may be turned in early BUT **will not** be accepted late.

Make Up Work

In order to maintain the integrity of my tests and ensure student's knowledge and comprehension of the subject matter, I have the following Make-Up test policy.

- If you are absent on test day FOR ANY REASON, you will be given a **Make-Up test** that will cover all the same content in a different format than the original test. This test will be administered to you on the day you return to school.

- If you are absent the day before the test, you are still expected to take the test on test day.
- If you are absent multiple days prior to the test, it is still **YOUR** responsibility to get any and all material and assignments you missed. This is best done by checking the class website ***hillscienceswhs.weebly.com*** or having your parent/guardian email me directly at khill@new-waverly.k12.tx.us. Decisions on “when to test” in these situations will be made on a case by case basis.
- Bonus questions, if offered, will be different on the Make-Up test than they were on the original test.

Electronics

Per the New Waverly High School Code of Conduct, all electronic devices (phones, smartwatches, fitness trackers, Ipods, headphones, etc) must not be displayed, turned on, or used on school property during the school day. **If an electronic device is seen during the school day, it will be confiscated by any school personnel and submitted to the office.**

** IF CELL PHONES APPEAR DURING QUIZZES OR TESTS: the security of the assessment has been compromised. This constitutes academic dishonesty and you will receive a **zero** on the assessment.

Course Breakdown by Semester

Semester 1

Ch 1 – Science & the Environment
 Ch 2 – Tools of Environmental Science
 Ch 3 – The Dynamic Earth
 Ch 4 – The Organization of Life
 Ch 5 – How Ecosystems Work
 Ch 6 – Biomes
 Ch 7 – Aquatic Ecosystems
 Ch 8 – Understanding Populations
 Ch 9 – The Human Population
 Ch 10 – Biodiversity
 Ch 11 - Water

Semester 2

Ch 12 – Air
 Ch 13 – Atmosphere & Climate Change
 Ch 14 – Land
 Ch 15 – Food & Agriculture
 Ch 16 – Mining & Mineral Resources
 Ch 17 – Nonrenewable Resources
 Ch 18 – Renewable Energy
 Ch 19 – Waste
 Ch 20 – The Environment & Human Health
 Ch 21 – Economics, Policy, & the Future

Supplies Required

Composition book(s)
 Pencils and Pens

Optional Supplies

box of kleenex
 bottle of hand sanitizer
 ream of paper

*Advanced notice will be given for any additional supplies or supplies needed for projects throughout the year.

Please sign and return this portion to Mrs. Hill tomorrow.

I, _____, have reviewed and understand the contents of the Environmental Science Syllabus and Extra Credit Assignments with my parents. I also agree to follow all safety rules while in Mrs. Hill's classroom and laboratory.

Student signature

Date

Parent Signature

Parent email / phone #

Please sign and return this portion to Mrs. Hill tomorrow.

I, _____, have reviewed and understand the contents of the Environmental Science Syllabus and Extra Credit Assignments with my parents. I also agree to follow all safety rules while in Mrs. Hill's classroom and laboratory.

Student signature

Date

Parent Signature

Parent email / phone #