Environmental Course Syllabus 2022-2023

**Instructor:** Mrs. Sutton-Wynn  
**Email:** Dsutton@hosutonisd.org  
**Room:** 2200

**Office Hours:** Monday (3:25pm-4:10pm) & Tues & Thursday (2:00pm-2:35 pm)  
Wednesday & Friday (2:40pm -3:20pm)

**Course Content**

The course follows guidelines established by the College Board with the goal to provide students with scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand interrelationships in the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made, to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and to examine alternatives for resolving and/or preventing them, including environmental policies and legislation.

**Text**

Textbook: Environmental Science: For the AP Course by Friedland and Relyea (Published by Bedford, freeman & worth, 3rd edition, 2019). CR1

Supplemental materials:
- America’s Environmental Report Card: Are We Making the Grade? by Harvey Blatt (Published by the MIT Press, 2nd Edition).
- AP Environmental Science Course and Exam Description by AP College Board (Fall 2019)
- Enviroliteracy.org at https://enviroliteracy.org
- HHMI BioInteractive at https://www.biointeractive.org/home

**About the Teacher**

I was born and raised in Florida. I graduated from Alabama Bama State University (Go Hornets) with a degree in Biology. I started my career in University admissions but quickly realized my passion for science education. I taught 8th grade science at Clifton Middle School for four years but transitioned to Waltrip High School in 2018. I live in the Houston area with my husband and two year old son.
**Ongoing Objectives**

- Students will be able to explore specific real-world environmental issues and gain an awareness of the science behind these issues. Students will explore the impact of our growing human population and understand that they have a stake in the future of the environment.
- Labs are conducted (exceeding the minimum 25% instructional time as required by the College Board). Some labs require individual research and data gathering and others have groups of 3–4 students work together. Ongoing field studies and long-term projects are incorporated into lab time.
- Students are expected to sit for the AP Environmental science exam on **May 2, 2023 at 8am**

**Scientific Journal**

- Students are required to keep and maintain their scientific journal that will be graded every 6 weeks. Students should keep notes, labs and activities in their notebook. We will set up notebooks in class.

**Grading Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labs and Free Response Questions</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily Work/Homework/Quizzes</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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**It is essential that you complete and turn in all assignments on time.**

**Late work must have parent form.**

**Tests:**

All tests in this class will be timed. Tests will be multiple choice and free response.

**Attendance and Participation**

Attendance and participation are required; it is difficult to learn the content if you are not present in class. You class participation and attendance can be a deciding factor if your class average straddles two grades. Be sure to see me about any missed work if you are absent.

**Daily Required Materials**

1. laptop  
2. pen  
3. Science Journal  
4. paper

**Topic Outline**

The following is an outline of the topics will be covered during this course

- Earth Systems and Resources (10-15%)
  - Earth Science concepts
  - The Atmosphere
  - Global Water Resources and Use
  - Soil and Soil dynamics
- The Living World (10-15%)
  - Ecosystem Structure
  - Energy Flow
  - Ecosystem Diversity
  - Natural Ecosystem Change
  - Natural Biogeochemical Cycles
- Population (10 – 15%)
○ Population Biology
○ Human Population
○ History, Birth Rate
○ Death Rate, Demographic Transition, age-structure diagrams
○ Population size and impact of population growth

Land and Water Use (10 – 15%)
○ Food and Agriculture
○ Forestry
○ Rangelands
○ Other Land Use (Urban development, transportation infrastructure, Public and Federal lands, Land conservation)
○ Mining
○ Fishing
○ Global Economics

Energy Resources and Consumption (10-15%)
○ Energy concepts, Laws of Thermodynamics, Conversions, Units, Energy Quality
○ Energy Consumption: Past, Present, and Future
○ Fossil Fuel Resources and use
○ Nuclear Energy
○ Hydroelectric Power
○ Energy conservation
○ Renewable Energy

Pollution (25-30%)
○ Human Health and Toxicology
○ Pollution types: Air, Noise, Water, Solid and Toxic waste
○ Economic Impacts

Global Change (10-15%)
○ Stratospheric Ozone
○ Global
○ Loss of Biodiversity