



# Environmental Science

Mr. Smith – RM 112

Steve.Smith@haralson.k12.ga.us



This is the most important class you will ever take. In it, you will learn to do no less than save the World and all life on it.

## I. Course Description

- A. Environmental Science is to provide you with the tools and ideas needed to understand how the natural world works, and to evaluate environmental problems, and to consider different solutions for solving or preventing them.
- B. Environmental Science includes Sustainability, Climate Change, Cycles, Population, Species, Biomes, Aquatic Ecosystems, Conventional Energy, Alternative Energy, Air Pollution, Water Pollution, Solid Waste, Food Production, and People and Politics.
- C. This class meets the requirements for a science credit toward graduation on all diplomas. There are no prerequisites for this course, but students will normally have credit for Biology and Physical Science prior to taking it.
- D. **Length:** This is a semester length class of 111 minutes per day.

## II. Instructional Philosophy

Students in science classes are expected to achieve a grade of at least 70 for the class and to pass the end-of-course tests in Biology and Physical Science. Instruction will be delivered based upon the Georgia Performance Standards for each course. Students will receive whole group and small group instruction, with opportunity available for one-on-one help before and after school. Both independent work and group work will be utilized in each class, and instruction will be delivered in a variety of ways, ranging from teacher-directed lecture to student-led inquiry. Students must demonstrate the ability to take some responsibility for their own education and the willingness to work cooperatively in a group setting in order to be able to work in teams. Student work will be evaluated through formative assessments (class work), summative assessments (tests), and performance assessments (projects).

## III. Course Goals

SEV1. Students will investigate the flow of energy and cycling of matter within an ecosystem and relate these phenomena to human society.

SEV2. Students will demonstrate an understanding that the Earth is one interconnected system.

SEV3. Students will describe stability and change in ecosystems.

SEV4. Students will understand and describe availability, allocation and conservation of energy and other resources.

SEV5. Students will recognize that human beings are part of the global ecosystem and will evaluate the effects of human activities and technology on ecosystems.

## IV. Major Course Projects

Science Project- Must use the Scientific Method

## V. Assessment Plan

Student work will be evaluated according to the following:

- Summative Assessments – tests, quizzes, exams
- Performance Assessments – labs, portfolios, projects, reading
- Formative Assessments – classwork and homework. Can also include items such as notebooks, drawings, class participation, etc.

Students in science classes are required to read a minimum of five books (750 pages) for the semester. This must be documented utilizing reading logs and annotated bibliography sheets provided by the teacher. Science department policy prohibits extra credit work for students. Students are permitted to retake tests. The maximum grade on a test retake is 80.

## VI. Grade Scale

A. **Summative Assessments (50%):** Measures of student mastery (tests, quizzes, etc)

B. **Performance Assessments (30%):** Application of knowledge and skills (labs, projects, etc)

C. **Formative Assessments (20%):** Student work intended to lead toward mastery (notes, sketches, etc)

## VII. Academic Dishonesty Policy:

Students cheating on any part of an assignment will receive a zero on the full assignment without any opportunity to make it up. In the case of students copying or aiding each other, both students are considered to be cheating. In addition to recording a zero for the assignment, the teacher will complete a Disciplinary Referral form with documents supporting the case. Leaving answers exposed in such a way that another student can copy them is cheating. Sharing any information about the contents of an exam before all students in all sections of the course have taken it is cheating. Photographing, copying or retaining a copy of an exam is cheating. Plagiarism is cheating. Never assume an assignment allows group work.

## VIII. Make Up Work for Unexcused Absences:

Missed assignments will be recorded as a zero until they are made up. Students with an unexcused absence should make-up work using the same policy as students with an excused absence. However, the recorded grade will remain a zero until the student documents the absence as excused or recovers the missing class time after school. Once this has taken place, the teacher will record

the appropriate grade. Work must be made up within one school week of the absence. Assignments that were made PRIOR to the absence are due on the date of the student's return to school.

**IX. Late Work:** Work turned in after the due date will not be recorded for a grade unless the student had an excused absence on the due date in which case the work is due on the student's first day back in class. **ONLY** in the special event that a student has excused absences for **ALL** days from and including the date the assignment is made through the due date will arrangements be made for the student to turn the work in later than the assigned due date.

**IX. Georgia Performance Standards for Environmental Science:**

Standards may be viewed at the following link: <https://www.georgiastandards.org/standards/Georgia%20Performance%20Standards/EnvironmentalScienceStandards-Approved2006.pdf>

**X. Classroom Procedures:**

1. **BRING THESE TO CLASS EVERY DAY!**

Textbook, Pen (blue or black ink only) and/or pencil (black "lead"), Plenty of writing paper, Notebook, Your syllabus

2. **Starting Class:** When you come to class, go directly to your seat and start work on the assignment in the upper right corner of the dry erase board.

3. **Ending Class:** The bell does not end class, I do. When the bell rings at the end of class, please remain in your seats until I dismiss you. You don't want to miss anything important, like what to study for the next day's test!

4. **Turning In Work:** Turn work in the box on my desk.

5. **Sharpening Pencils, Hole Punching, Using Sinks in Classroom:** Don't ask, just do it. Wait until there is not a line.

6. **Retakes:** If you score less than 80 on an assignment, you may take ANOTHER test on the same topic to improve the grade. The retake has a maximum possible grade of 80. Material from before the mid-term may not be retested after the mid-term.

7. **Extra Credit:** By department policy, no extra credit will be offered. **Food:** Do not bring food in the classroom, it will be taken up and thrown away.

8. **Safety:** Horseplay could get someone seriously hurt.

9. **Drinks:** Only drinks with a spill proof lid (like a screw top bottle) are allowed in the classroom. Others will be taken up and thrown away.

10. **Restroom:** We will make a class visit to the restroom once each block...no special trips without a note from your doctor.

**Make-Up and Hairdressing:** Do not do this in class.

11. **High Expectations:** We have high expectations for each other! Let's have a great year and make them all come true!

**XII. Online Resources:**

**1. Environmental Science and Gmail**

Resources and most handouts and power points for this class can be found on my website. On occasion I will accept assignments through the school gmail account. Information to access both are listed below.

- Science with Mr. Smith: <http://hchscience@weebly.com>
- Gmail: <http://mail.haralsonschools.org> Your email address is [firstname.lastname@haralsonschools.org](mailto:firstname.lastname@haralsonschools.org).

**2. Power School**

Check your current grades and attendance at this site. Logon is firstname.lastname and password is the last 4 digits of your social security number.

- <http://powerschool.haralson.k12.ga.us/public>

**STUDENT NAME (PRINTED):** \_\_\_\_\_

**I have read and understand the contents of the Environmental Science Syllabus.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**(Student Signature)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**(Date)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**(Parent/Guardian Signature)**