

# AP - ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

## Teacher Information

**Instructor:** Jason Milham

**Office Hours:** Before school and during lunch – after school by appointment

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**Course Website:** [www.wvhs.wlvv.k12.or.us/milhamj](http://www.wvhs.wlvv.k12.or.us/milhamj)

## Description/Goals/Standards:

This course is designed to be the equivalent of an introductory environmental science college course. Environmental science is a broad integrated branch of science that draws on knowledge of biology, chemistry, physics and the earth sciences as well as social sciences. Often times there is a political influence on the discipline as well. Students will be required to tap into all of these areas in order to begin to understand and investigate the important environmental issues of our time. Opportunities will be provided to learn field and lab investigative techniques, develop independent investigations, test new concepts and principles through data analysis, and explore specific environmental issues and problems within a scientific, social, cultural, and economic context. These experiences will culminate in the Environmental Science advanced placement exam in May.

## Required Materials

Text: Friedland and Relyea – Environmental Science for AP

Three ring binder for course notebook - 2" or 3" are ideal.

Dividers with labels

Index cards

## Grading Scale and Graded Components of the Course

A - 90-100%

B - 80-89%

C - 70-79%

D - 60-69%

F - 59% or lower

- **Classwork/Participation (30%):** It is expected that students will attempt with good effort, all assigned work and contribute to class discussions and interactions. This may include, but is not limited to: readings, text questions, worksheets, concept maps, etc. Most assignments will culminate in a class discussion. They will be checked in on the assigned due date.
  - **You will need to do one outside of class enrichment activity each semester** – class website will provide details on opportunities
  - **You will need to work to stay on top of current events in environmental science** – listening to NPR or twitter links to sites like yale environment 360 are great sources for this sort of stuff – we will have current event discussions in class periodically.
- **Labs and Projects/Notebook (30%):** This class will have a significant field and lab component as well as a variety of projects. These will be an application of the many concepts and ideas that we discuss in class as well as providing opportunities to practice the tools and techniques of science in general and environmental science specifically.
- **Exams (40%):** As a part of the advanced placement curriculum, tests will be primarily conceptual in format. While factual questions will be included, the exams will focus on evaluating conceptual learning through essay questioning that requires critical thinking. Exams will consist of both M/C and essay sections. The format of tests will reflect AP testing format.

**Make-up work:** Work received more than one curriculum unit late, or after it has been discussed in class, and is unrelated to absences, will receive zero credit. Make-up materials for labs and tests will not necessarily be identical to the original work. It is the student's responsibility to seek make-up work.

**Equipment & Safety:** It is expected that all safety instructions provided in the lab/field environment will be carefully followed. All equipment must be handled with care and respect. Broken and/or lost equipment replacement costs that result from horseplay, negligence, or improper use will be the students' responsibility.