

Course Description

With the current changes in global climate, rising sea levels, and warming oceans, it is important for students to discover the state of Earth's systems and the consequences of human activities. AP Environmental Science provides students with a global view of their world and their role in it. It examines the scientific principles and concepts required to understand the interrelationships between ocean, land, and atmosphere that guide the natural world and allow Earth to be a planet suitable for life. Laboratory activities within the course support their learning of these relationships through reflective, hands-on, or virtual experiences.

In addition, students identify and analyze environmental problems that are natural and human-made, determining their own ecological footprint in the world to discover how their activities affect the world around them. They evaluate the relative risks associated with environmental problems and examine alternative solutions, such as clean energy, sustainable practices, and conservation, for resolving or preventing future environmental problems.

This is a yearlong course consisting of 8 units. Upon successful completion students will receive 1 credit towards high school graduation.

Course Overview

Semester 1

- Ecosystems
- Biodiversity and Populations
- Earth Systems
- Natural Resources

Semester 2

- Energy Resources
- Air Pollution
- Water and Land Pollution
- Global Change

Required Course Materials

Please access the list of course materials from the OC Online book ordering system and order your materials as soon as possible. Oftentimes, course materials are on back order and you may experience a delay in receiving them, causing students to fall behind in their online coursework. When ordering used or rented materials, be careful that online access codes are also current.

Methods of Evaluation

Objectives for each unit and AP Investigation will be included in the introduction for each. You will be assessed with laboratory reports, presentations, written papers, discussion threads, interaction during live sessions, and written quizzes and tests.

Grading Policy

Students will demonstrate mastery through the following formative and summative assessments:

- 40% Assignments
- 10% Participation (Discussion Posts, Synchronous Sessions)
- 10% Quizzes
- 25% Final Exam
- 15% Unit Tests