**Roanoke Valley Governor’s School for Science and Technology**

**AP Environmental Science**

**Syllabus**

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1. **Course Information**
   1. **Course Description**

AP Environmental Science is an interdisciplinary course equivalent to an introductory college course for science majors. There is an emphasis on data collection and analysis both outdoors and in the lab. The major themes include the connection between living organisms and their environment, the flow of energy and matter through ecosystems, and human impact on the environment. Students are expected to obtain a qualifying score of 3, 4, or 5 on the AP Environmental Science exam at the end of this course.

* 1. **Gifted Education Strategies**

Technology use is integrated throughout the course, including the use of Vernier probes and sensors, computer simulations, and Microsoft Excel in the laboratory. Collaborative learning, laboratory experiments, peer-led review, and field experiences will enhance the learning environment of this course.

* 1. **Text, Printed Resources and Media Resources**
     1. *Environment Science for AP*, 2ndEdition, Friedland and Relyea, 2015, W.H. Freeman & Co
     2. *Cracking the AP Environmental Science Exam.* Princeton Review, Princeton, NJ.

1. **Grading Policy**
2. **Grading Scale**

100-90% **A**

89-80% **B**

79-70% **C**

69-60% **D**

59-50% **F**

1. **Types of Evaluations**
   1. **Labs/Projects** The lab grade will be based on lab reports, class presentations, field work, and other projects. Students are expected to follow all safety rules when working in the lab or in the field. Students will work individually or in small cooperative groups on projects throughout the year.
   2. **Homework** It is expected that each student will complete reading assignments and keep up with material as scheduled. Homework assignments may include textbook assignments, short essays, current events summaries, and other short assignments.
   3. **Quizzes** Quizzes will be given regularly. Most quizzes will be free-response in format to demonstrate broad understanding and knowledge.
   4. **Tests** Tests will be given at the end of each of unit to assess work covered over an extended period of time. Material included on a given test includes lecture notes, class discussion topics, and all readings for that unit. Tests will reflect AP-type multiple choice questions and free-response questions.
   5. **Semester Exams** These will include both multiple choice questions and free response questions in a manner similar to the AP exam.
2. **Semester Grade Determination**

**Category Weight**

Labs/Projects 25%

Homework 10%

Quizzes 20%

Tests 30%

Semester Exam 15%

1. **Final Grade Determination**

The final grade is the average of the two semester grades. Students who fail to maintain a B average or above will be subject to the RVGS probationary policy.

1. **Class Procedures**
   1. **Absences and tardies** The procedures in the RVGS student handbook will be followed. Regular attendance is necessary for success and will be expected of all students. Students will notify the teacher in advance of any planned absences.
   2. **Make-up Work** It is the responsibility of the student to inquire about missed classwork, homework, quizzes, labs, and tests during absences. Arrangements should be made immediately upon the return to school to make-up any missed work.
   3. **Late Work** Work turned in late will have points deducted from it according to the following schedule: Homework: Most homework will not be accepted late. If accepted, late homework will receive a 50% penalty. Labs and projects turned in late (without prior discussion with the instructor) will receive a 10% penalty per day (including weekends). If circumstances arise that prevent you from completing assignments on time, communicate this *before the due date.*
   4. **Academic Integrity** The procedures in the RVGS student handbook will be followed. Any form of cheating or academic dishonesty will not be accepted. A good rule of thumb for groupwork is the name or names on the assignment – if yours is the only name, then all work should be yours. Guidelines and expectations will be provided for group work, but *you are encouraged to ask for clarification* as needed to avoid integrity issues.
   5. **Technology Policy** The RCPS Acceptable Use Policy and the RVGS student handbook procedures will be followed.
   6. **Extra Help:** It is important for you to quickly obtain help whenever you are having difficulty. Your instructor be available for help before or after school by appointment. Please arrange for appointments in advance.
   7. **Online Gradebook** 
      1. A blank in the grade book means that the assignment has not yet been graded. You may have a blank because the teacher has not graded the class set or because your assignment was turned in after the due date. Blanks do not count as zeros in your average.
      2. A zero in the grade book means that you have earned a zero as a grade.
   8. **Interim Reports:** Interim reports are issued three times each semester. The interim report is a snapshot of the current class average. Please feel free to discuss your report with your instructor.
   9. **Student Performance Strategy:** A student improvement plan will be implemented at the teacher’s discretion or in the event that the student's grade falls below an 80.0%.
   10. **SEC Notification:** Per Virginia Code (§ 22.1-16.8), parents must be aware of the use of any instructional materials with explicit content. No explicit materials are used in this course.
   11. **General Classroom Procedures**
       1. Food and drinks are allowed in the classroom, but not the lab areas.
       2. The cell phone procedures in the student handbook will be followed. If parents need to contact a student during class, they should call the front office. *Electronic devices of any sort that are visible during* *a quiz or a test without the teacher’s permission will automatically be viewed as* *evidence of cheating, which will result in a grade of zero for the assessment and possible dismissal from RVGS.*
       3. Field trips are an essential part of studying environmental science and are therefore mandatory. Absence from any field experience, for any reason, requires that the student complete an alternate assignment.
       4. This course is dependent on your participation and engagement. You will learn more, perform better, and enjoy the course more deeply if you participate consistently in class discussions.

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