

2025-26 A.P. Environmental Science Syllabus

Archimedean Upper Conservatory

Instructor: Jana Caban-Klepacova

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Course Reference Text: Exploring Environmental Science

Course Number: 200134003

G.T. Miller and S.E. Spoolman, AP edition, Cengage Learning 2019

Course Description:

Major Concepts/Content – AP Environmental Science is an interdisciplinary, applied science taught at a **college level of an environmental science course**. The content of the AP Environmental Science is equivalent to the college level course. The course comprises of biology, chemistry, physics, geology, ecology, economics, political science, and mathematics. The goal of the AP Environmental Science course is to provide students with the theoretical knowledge about the environment, but at the same time help students to identify and analyze the problems of the environment and apply the interdisciplinary knowledge from the above-mentioned disciplines. Students are led to use scientific principles, methodologies and deductive as well as inductive thinking to understand the interrelationships of the natural world and the environmental problems caused both naturally and/or human-made. The important parts of the course are laboratory sessions and field work/excursions.

Major Themes:

1. Science is a process.
2. Energy conversions underlie all ecological processes.
3. The Earth itself is one interconnected system.
4. Humans alter natural systems.
5. Environmental problems have a cultural and social context.
6. Human survival depends on developing practices that will achieve sustainable systems.

Student Selection:

AP Environmental Science course is open to all students in senior year that had successfully completed Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and Algebra II. At the same time students have to be capable of reading a college level textbook, have excellent work ethics, and should be highly motivated learners.

Grading Policy: All grades will be based on a percentage system. Forty percent (40%) will be earned on major tests, thirty percent (30%) on quizzes, projects and labs, twenty percent (20%) on class work, participation and class work evaluations, and ten percent (10%) on homework.

Students will obtain these grades on average per one quarter:

- Unit Test (every 2/weeks) = 2 to 3 grades
- Essay Exams (FRQs) = 1 to 2 grades (graded using AP or AP style rubrics)
- Pop Quizzes (unannounced) = 2 to 3 grades
- Projects/Assignments/Worksheets/Homework = 5 to 10 grades (minimum 2/week)
 - Grading Scale: according to Student Handbook.

Tests/Quizzes/Classroom Evaluation:

- **Test/quizzes** - Generally once per week or at the end of a unit. Pop quizzes are not announced.
- **Classroom Evaluation** - Throughout the quarter students will be evaluated for class participation and involvement. Examples of activities that will be taken to consideration: discussion participation, oral/written response, on time completion of laboratories, and projects.

Teacher/Student/Parent Communication:

- Teacher – Student communication is done via email or in person in class
- Teacher – Parent communication is done via school email: jana.caban@archimedrean.org
- To schedule parent-teacher conference please email the request to the above-mentioned school email

Homework

- HW posts can be found in multiple places – Archie, Archie Resources, student email, textbook, and/or a physical handout
- Notes and lectures should be reviewed, re-written nightly (15-30 min)
- Complete the assigned projects, lab reports adhere to due dates
- Study for exams
- Review the lecture slides before every new chapter
- Watch all assigned videos, and/or short movies
- Read all Case Studies, and/or additional reading materials assigned

Make up: In keeping with the school's guidelines as well as M-DCPS guidelines,

- Students with ***unexcused absences will not*** be provided with make-up work, **unless decided otherwise by a teacher.**
- Students with ***excused absences*** will have one day for each excused absence to make up the work. This includes daily grades and tests.
- If a student is **absent, it is his/her responsibility** to obtain any assignments missed while absent. Students are expected to consult missed assignments with their classmates first in order to complete the work that they are missing.
- **Late work, past five (5) days, is not accepted. Once homework is late an increment of ten (10) points is deducted from the grade, after the homework is graded for the correctness.**
- **Missed exams must be taken within the time allowed no longer than three (3) days. Prior arrangement is required.**
- If you are absent during laboratory work, you must get an alternative assignment.

Student Support:

- Every Wednesday between 7:45 a.m. and 8:15 a.m. I will be available to provide academic support if extra help/explanation is needed. Students are responsible to communicate with me a day ahead in person.

- To complete the course, students are expected to pass the **Midterm and Final Exam**. The course is concluded by the College Board exam administered in **May 15th, 2026, this exam is a college credit**. To successfully complete the course the review sessions will be provided after school or on Saturday on a regular basis starting January 2026.

Academic Dishonesty

Students are expected to be honest and ethical in their academic work. As per *MDCPS Code of Student Conduct*, Academic Dishonesty is a minimum Level II Violation and is defined as an intentional act of deception in one of the following areas:

- Cheating – the use or attempted use of unauthorized materials, information or study aids
- Fabrication – falsification or invention of any information
- Assisting – helping another commit an act of academic dishonesty
- Tampering – altering or interfering with evaluation instruments and documents
- Plagiarism – representing the words or ideas of another person as one’s own

As a condition of taking this course, all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com (or similar tool) for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers.

Course Expectations

Students are expected to be in their seats, ready to begin the class before the bell rings. Please familiarize yourself with the school’s policies and procedures stated in the Curriculum Bulletin / Parent & Student Handbook as these same rules apply to the classroom. Students are expected to have required course materials for each class, no exceptions.

The student is responsible for the following:

- Completing all homework assignments
- Turn in all work assigned by the due date (there will be NO late work accepted)
- Ask for assistance when needed from parent and/or instructor
- Studying the content of information daily

Consequences for not Meeting Classroom Expectations

- 1st Consequence – Verbal warning
- 2nd Consequence – Parent contact (phone call or e-mail)
- 3rd Consequence – Referral to the administration

Depending on the severity of the classroom disruption or behavior, the teacher may bypass the order of consequences listed above.

Requirements for class:

- Textbook hardcopy, and/or e-form textbook
- ½ inch, 3-ring binder with dividers for handouts, lab reports and notes
- Lined paper, blue/black ink pens, **NO PENCILS**
- One color pen/highlighter

Classroom Rules: Students are expected to follow the guidelines of Student-Parent Handbook/Code of Conduct at all times.

- Show respect for yourself, others, and their property
- No drinking or eating in the classroom.
- Students are expected to be in their assigned seats with all the required supplies before the bell rings.
- Students are expected to begin work as soon as the bell rings and follow the instructions in order to complete the assignments on time.
- Students are expected to raise their hand and wait for their name to be called out to answer the question or ask to leave the seat.
- Students are expected to place their TURNED OFF cell phones into the ASSIGNED phone pockets located by the classroom door. Not following the requirement will result in confiscating the cell phone.

Final Word...

Success comes when a student consistently completes assignments in a timely manner, stays on task, develops habit of a daily studying and reviewing the material. Emphasis is placed on problem solving and critical thinking.

“Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but not every man's greed.”
- **Mahatma Gand**

*****This syllabus may be subject to change throughout the semester*****

PRINT, SIGN and UPLOAD to ARCHIE ONLY this page (bring the hard copy to class) – Homework Grade, Due Friday 8/15

PARENTS/GUARDIANS CONTACT INFORMATION

Mother/Guardian Name:	Phone Number:	Email address:
Father/Guardian Name:	Phone Number:	Email address:
Student NAME:	N/A	Email address:

My child and I have read and understand the course expectations for Mrs. Caban-Klepacova’s AP Environmental Science course for 2025-26 at Archimedean Upper Conservatory. I have her contact information and will contact her with any questions or concerns that I may have.

PRINT Name of Student: _____

Signature of Student:

PRINT Name of Parent/Guardian:

Signature of Parent/Guardian:

Please fill out the contact information below as neatly as possible so Mrs. Caban-Klepacova can contact you!