

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE SYLLABUS  
2003-2004

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION :
  - a. Aim : Students will be given a science background needed to analyze for themselves many of the issues concerning our environment, and understand the complex interactions between the various elements of that environment.
  - b. Topics:
    - 1.A global perspective of Environmental Science
    - 2.Living things in ecosystems
    - 3.How ecosystems work
    4. Kinds of ecosystems
    - 5.Water
    - 6.Climate and Atmosphere
  - c. Text: Environmental Science, Holt Publishing, 1996 (Chapters 1-5, 7)
  
2. INSTRUCTIONAL PHILOSOPHY: The course is designed as the first portion of a two year study designed to meet the Massachusetts Science Curriculum Frameworks for Biology 9 or 10. The ninth grade format will provide the Environmental Science and Ecology background required. The course will include vocabulary preview, text-related worksheets, Power Point lectures, multiple written and oral research projects, as well as class discussion. Visuals will be used whenever applicable.
  - a. Expectations for student performance: Students are expected to use and understand vocabulary, identify and describe environmental issues and explain interactions between species and their environments
  - b. Delivery: Instruction will be delivered through vocabulary preview, text-related worksheets, Power Point lectures, multiple written and oral research projects, as well as class discussion. Visuals will be used whenever applicable.
  - c. Assessment: There will be a final exam, Chapter quizzes and tests, homework and classwork grades, as well as graded projects.
  
3. COURSE GOALS: The course will focus on core standards for the teaching of :
  - a. Photosynthesis and respiration
  - b. Evolution and biodiversity
  - c. Ecology
  
4. MAJOR COURSE PROJECTS: Projects will include maps of areas of succession in student's neighborhoods, written research papers and posters on assigned animals, group research papers and posters as well as presentation of assigned biomes.