

# AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE COURSE SYLLABUS – 2024/2025

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**INSTRUCTOR:** MRS. LUNCZ-SPORMAN

**EMAIL:** [PAMELA\\_LUNCZ@CHINO.K12.CA.US](mailto:PAMELA_LUNCZ@CHINO.K12.CA.US)

*\*Students: when you email me, be sure to use your school email and include your period number in the subject line.*

**RESPONSE TIME:** WITHIN 48 BUSINESS HOURS

**ROOM:** S201; **OFFICE HOURS:** SEE WEEKLY HOURS POSTED ON THE BOARD IN CLASS

## **Introduction**

Advanced Placement Environmental Science is an advanced, yearlong elective course for students who desire to learn the various scientific concepts, principles, and methodologies of environmental science, the study of the natural world. We will be investigating a variety of topics ranging from geology to water pollution to air toxicity through experimentation and field studies (*See the College Board CED for a complete list of topics*). This course can fulfill one semester of an introductory college level environmental science or laboratory science course.

*NOTE: This is an elective course. Students must be prepared to work outdoors for several labs. If you oppose field work for any reason then understand there will **not** be alternate assignments.*

This school year, the Environmental Science AP Exam will take place Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at 12 pm. Please keep in mind that the College Board policy for ordering exams requires that all AP Exam orders will be completed in the fall, with the deadline TBD. Additionally, there will be a change from paper-based exams to digital exams.

## **Class Textbook, Website, & Materials**

A textbook should be checked out from the library. *Environmental Science for the AP Course* by Friedland and Relyea will provide foundational reading material for the course. Additional supplemental readings and materials will be available through the course website.

You will need access to the following websites:

1. Google Classroom: Important course materials, assignments, and information, including announcements and agendas, can be found on the Google Classroom course website. You are responsible for keeping track of which assignments are to be submitted through Google Classroom and of those to be submitted in class on paper.
2. College Board AP Classroom: Instructions to access this account will be discussed in the coming weeks and the access code will be made available on Google Classroom.

Students must come to class prepared and ready to learn. As such, the following materials are suggested for you to be successful:

- School-provided Chromebook
- College-ruled lined paper
- A binder (either one dedicated to this class or a specific section within a general school binder) or a folder
- No. 2 pencil & pencil sharpener/lead
- Black ink pen
- Pens of different colors, colored pencils, and highlighters

*NOTE: Some supplies are available in class and may be shared among classes.*

Enrollment in an AP level course means students are responsible for their own success. There is no excuse for late work, lack of materials, lack of preparedness, or ignorance of information addressed in class and/or posted on the class website. If there is an issue, students are responsible for contacting me as soon as possible through email.

## **Coursework**

Due to the large volume of course content and limited class time, emphasis will be placed on practicing the science skills during class. The dissemination of basic content knowledge is primarily handled through the readings and resources contained within the "Essentials" (*presented on pink sheets*). As such, you are required to interface, engage, and interact with course material *before* class. It is expected that you will have done this, and the style of the discussion, expected participation, and class activities are based on this assumption.

There will be situations and content on exams that may not be specifically discussed in class prior to their appearance on exams. This is very different than many other types of courses you might have taken. A good rule of thumb is that any content covered in the “Essentials” could appear on an exam, regardless of whether or not we have discussed it specifically in class. Taking care to interact with the “Essentials” is absolutely crucial to your success in the course and on the AP Environmental Science examination.

Course examinations are modeled after the AP Environmental Science examination and are cumulative. These examinations occur at the conclusion of each unit. Content quizzes and Free Response Questions, both announced and unannounced, may occur weekly.

## **Laboratories**

Inquiry-based laboratory activities are an important component of the class. Students are responsible for keeping and maintaining a record of all laboratory investigations. Students will also communicate their laboratory results through formal reports, group presentations, poster sessions, and summaries of literature and scientific investigations. Students must abide by District safety rules and regulations when performing laboratory activities.

## **Binder and Assignments**

Unit packets will be collected periodically each semester. Each packet is to include all notes, classwork, and homework (*unless otherwise announced or submitted through Google Classroom*). ALL work must have a name, APES ID#, and title, and should appear in the packet in order. A scorecard with the order of items will be provided prior to the due date (*any packet that does not follow the order presented on the scorecard will not be graded*). It is recommended that you keep a binder or folder that is up to date and organized as we go.

Refer to the following late assignments policy:

- All assignments that are turned in late will automatically receive a 50% deduction.
- Late work is accepted within each six-week grading period. Late work from previous grading periods will not be accepted.
- OOPS PASS & HW PASS POLICY: An OOPS or HW Pass may be used to turn in an assignment late up to each six weeks grade deadline with no penalty.
- If there is an emergency or other extenuating circumstance, I must be informed BEFORE the assignment is due in order to make appropriate arrangements.

## **Grading Policy and Feedback**

Grades can be accessed online via the student and/or parent Aeries Portal. Aeries Portal access can be obtained in the office.

Overall grades will be weighted as follows:

Assessments – Summative (e.g. exams, semester finals)	45%
Assessments – Formative (e.g. quizzes, FRQs)	15%
Laboratory & Projects (e.g. laboratory activities, laboratory reports, etc.)	25%
Assignments (e.g. classwork, homework, etc.)	15%

## **Grading Scale**

A+	99% and ABOVE	B+	87 – 89%	C+	77 – 79%	D+	67 – 69%	F	59% and BELOW
A	93 – 98%	B	83 – 86%	C	73 – 76%	D	63 – 66%		
A-	90 – 92%	B-	80 – 82%	C-	70 – 72%	D-	60 – 62%		

NOTE: I will **not** be rounding up grades. For example, an 89.9% will remain a B+ or a 79.9% will remain a C+, etc. Therefore, please take every possible opportunity to earn points so that you do not end up on the edge of a letter grade.

All students begin each semester with a “Satisfactory” mark in citizenship and work habits. Students must show the characteristics of an “Outstanding” to earn that mark. Students whose cell phones are confiscated or who are consistently tardy will automatically receive a “Needs Improvement” mark or an “Unsatisfactory” mark for their citizenship grade dependent on the severity and frequency. Students with missing assignments will automatically receive a “Needs Improvement” mark for their work habits grade.

## **Attendance**

Students will be presented with a large volume of information in order to comprehend the interrelationships present throughout the environment. Students with poor attendance will find it difficult to keep up with the pace of the course. Make sure that any absences are cleared through the attendance office, as make up assignments and/or exams are prohibited for un-cleared absences or truantries. If you must be absent, refer first to the class website for assignments. Students are responsible for obtaining any missed assignments and/or assessments from the instructor. Contact the attendance office to ask for assignments to be sent home if your absence is over an extended period of time. Refer to the following:

- The number of days of the absence will determine how many days you have to make up the work. (Ex: 1 day absent = 1 day to complete work).
- If you are absent on a day scheduled as a review day for an assessment AND that assessment occurs the next day AND you are in attendance on exam day, you will be required to take the exam.
- If you are absent the day of an exam, then you are required to make up the exam the first day that you return, unless you have made PRIOR arrangements.
- *Note: Make-up assessments may be a different version than those taken during the scheduled day of the assessment.*

## **Class Policies & Student Behavior**

This is an advanced placement elective course for upper classmen. Students will be expected to uphold the following policies at all times:

- **Mutual Respect:** Disrespect of any kind will not be tolerated. Students will respect themselves, and show respect to the instructor, their classmates, and the classroom. Use academic vocabulary at all times. Behave with maturity and respect by actively listening when someone else, whether the instructor or a peer, is speaking. Respect our classroom by disposing of trash in the proper receptacles, cleaning up after laboratories, and treating books and classroom supplies with care. Immaturity during labs and field work will not be tolerated and may result in a significant loss of points, an automatic “Unsatisfactory” in citizenship, and/or additional consequences.
- **Academic Integrity & Honesty:** Cheating in any form is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Please see the [school handbook](#) for further clarification of academic honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with the school’s policies on what constitutes academic dishonesty and the repercussions that will follow violations of said policies.
- **Dress Code:** The school dress code, including the wearing of hats, sweatshirt hoods, and sunglasses in class, as outlined in the [student handbook](#) will be enforced at all times.
- **Electronic Devices:** Electronic devices, when not utilized as a teacher-directed learning tool, are prohibited in class. This includes the use of cell phones and music. Cell phones must be kept off or on silent. If the above items are brought out during class, they will be sent to “phone jail” for the duration of the period. Cell phones must be stored in student bags and out of sight for the *entirety* of the period on exam days. Failure to do so will result in a score of zero on the exam.
- **Food:** This classroom is a laboratory, as such, absolutely no food, gum, or drinks other than water are allowed.
- **Restroom:** Students are expected to use the restroom, if necessary, during passing periods before or after class.

Students will be expected to act in accordance with school and classroom policies. If violation of the above policies occurs, parents and/or administration will be contacted.

**NOTE:** The severity of and number of violations will be taken into consideration when determining consequences and may warrant acceleration of consequences.

## **Honesty Statement**

You are encouraged to work with your peers to study course content. As such, some assignments will have evidence of collaboration. I expect that much of the group work that you do will be similar across members of the same group. If you have read this far, you’re doing very well already. You may receive extra credit by sending me an email with an adorable picture of a duckling or gosling. The email must come from your school email and include your period number in the subject line to be considered for extra credit. Please continue reading the honesty policy and do not discuss the extra credit with others in the class. Outside of group work, all other work done in this class is expected to be original. Any violation of this policy is unacceptable, will not be tolerated, and will result in the following repercussions: (1) an automatic zero on the assignment or assessment in question; (2) an “unsatisfactory” mark for both citizenship and work habit grades; (3) the inability to ever receive a letter of recommendation from me for all parties involved.

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**INSTRUCTOR:** MRS. SPORMAN (LUNCZ)

**EMAIL:** PAMELA\_LUNCZ@CHINO.K12.CA.US

**NOTE:** *I got married and changed my name over the summer. Once the district updates my information district-wide, my new email will be the following: pamela\_sporman@chino.k12.ca.us*

Please sign and upload this page only to the appropriate assignment on Google Classroom. Submission acknowledges that both student and parent/guardian have read and understand the AP Environmental Science class expectations as outlined in the preceding pages. In addition, signature of this page indicates familiarization with the Ruben S. Ayala High School policies found in the [school handbook](#).

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Student Name (Print) & Date

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Student Signature

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Parent/Guardian Name (Print) & Date

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Parent/Guardian Signature

Email to Contact Parent/Guardian

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e-mail of parent/guardian