Environmental Science Course Overview

Content Area: **Science**
Course(s):
Time Period:
Length: **Year**
Status: **Published**

Cover

EAST BRUNSWICK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

East Brunswick New Jersey

Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Victor P. Valeski

Science

Environemental Science

Course Number: 1103

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Course Overview

1103 ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Environmental Science is a full year lab class that will meet six times each week. Students will utilize concepts from earth, chemistry, physics and life science fields to investigate phenomena relating to interactions between living and non-living elements in the environment. The course will be made up of four thematic units: energy, atmosphere and climate, marine science, and geology. Students will learn through an inquiry approach and attempt to develop solutions to complex environmental issues. Understanding will be demonstrated through completing group work, lab investigations, engineering and design projects, presentations, and case studies.

Modifications

Each teacher, each student, each classroom is unique and adaptations are specific to each situation. Differentiating instruction and providing multiple ways to assess allows more flexibility for students to meet the standards and requirements of the class. Below are samples of the types of adaptations/modifications that may occur for students based on need including ELLs, students with a 504 Plan, Special Education, Basic Skills and Gifted and Talented students.

Adaptations/Modifications:

Input Adapt the way instruction is delivered to the learner. ***For example:*** • Use different visual aids, • Plan more concrete examples, • Provide hands-on activities, • Place students in cooperative groups.	**Output** Adapt how the learner can respond to instruction. ***For example:*** • Allow a verbal vs. written response, • Use a communication book for students, • Allow students to show knowledge with hands-on materials.	**Time** Adapt the time allotted and allowed for learning, task completion or testing. ***For example:*** • Individualize a timeline for completing a task, • Pace learning differently (increase or decrease) for some learners.
Difficulty Adapt the skill level, problem type, or the rules on how the learner may approach the work. ***For example:***	**Level of Support** Increase the amount of personal assistance with specific learner. ***For example:*** • Assign peer buddies,	**Size** Adapt the number of items that the learner is expected to learn or complete. ***For example:***

• Simplify task directions. • Use of calculator.	teaching assistants, peer tutors or cross-age tutors.	• Reduce the number of vocabulary words a learner must learn at any one time.
Degree of Participation Adapt the extent to which a learner is actively involved in the task. ***For example:*** • Allow for small group/individual presentations vs. presentations to the whole class.	**Alternate Goals** Adapt the goals or outcome expectations while using the same materials. ***For example:*** • Students in the same class are expected to either write a paragraph, write a bulleted response, or meet with the teacher to provide a verbal response.	**Substitute Curriculum** Provide differentiated instruction and materials to meet a learner's individual goals. ***For example:*** • Individualize a timeline for completing a task, pace learning differently (increase or decrease) for some learners, • Use of Learning Ally.

Materials and Resources

Textbook: Environmental Science: Sustaining Our World

ISBN: 9781305637429

Author: Miller and Spoolman

Publisher: Cengage

Subscriptions: Mindtap, Gizmos

Content Specific Standards

SCI.HS-LS2	Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics
SCI.HS-LS2-1	Use mathematical and/or computational representations to support explanations of factors that affect carrying capacity of ecosystems at different scales.
SCI.HS.LS2.A	Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems
SCI.HS.LS2.C	Ecosystem Dynamics, Functioning, and Resilience
	Scale, Proportion, and Quantity
SCI.HS-LS2-3	Construct and revise an explanation based on evidence for the cycling of matter and flow of energy in aerobic and anaerobic conditions.
SCI.HS-LS2-4	Use mathematical representations to support claims for the cycling of matter and flow of

	energy among organisms in an ecosystem.
	Energy and Matter
SCI.HS-LS2-5	Develop a model to illustrate the role of photosynthesis and cellular respiration in the cycling of carbon among the biosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere, and geosphere.
	Developing and Using Models
SCI.HS.LS2.B	Cycles of Matter and Energy Transfer in Ecosystems
SCI.HS.PS3.D	Energy in Chemical Processes
SCI.HS-LS2-6	Evaluate the claims, evidence, and reasoning that the complex interactions in ecosystems maintain relatively consistent numbers and types of organisms in stable conditions, but changing conditions may result in a new ecosystem.
SCI.HS-LS2-7	Design, evaluate, and refine a solution for reducing the impacts of human activities on the environment and biodiversity.
SCI.HS-LS2-8	Evaluate the evidence for the role of group behavior on individual and species' chances to survive and reproduce.
SCI.HS.LS2.D	Social Interactions and Group Behavior
SCI.HS-LS4-5	Evaluate the evidence supporting claims that changes in environmental conditions may result in: (1) increases in the number of individuals of some species, (2) the emergence of new species over time, and (3) the extinction of other species.
	Engaging in Argument from Evidence
SCI.HS.LS4.C	Adaptation
	Cause and Effect
SCI.HS-LS4-6	Create or revise a simulation to test a solution to mitigate adverse impacts of human activity on biodiversity.
SCI.HS.LS4.D	Biodiversity and Humans
SCI.HS-ESS1-6	Apply scientific reasoning and evidence from ancient Earth materials, meteorites, and other planetary surfaces to construct an account of Earth's formation and early history.
SCI.HS.ESS1.C	The History of Planet Earth
SCI.HS.PS1.C	Nuclear Processes
SCI.HS-ESS2-2	Analyze geoscience data to make the claim that one change to Earth's surface can create feedbacks that cause changes to other Earth systems.
SCI.HS-ESS2-4	Use a model to describe how variations in the flow of energy into and out of Earth's systems result in changes in climate.
SCI.HS.ESS1.B	Earth and the Solar System
SCI.HS.ESS2.A	Earth Materials and Systems
SCI.HS-ESS2-5	Plan and conduct an investigation of the properties of water and its effects on Earth materials and surface processes.
	Planning and Carrying Out Investigations
SCI.HS.ESS2.C	The Roles of Water in Earth's Surface Processes
SCI.HS-ESS2-6	Develop a quantitative model to describe the cycling of carbon among the hydrosphere, atmosphere, geosphere, and biosphere.
SCI.HS.ESS2.D	Weather and Climate
SCI.HS-ESS2-7	Construct an argument based on evidence about the simultaneous coevolution of Earth's systems and life on Earth.
SCI.HS.ESS2.E	Biogeology

SCI.HS-ESS3	Earth and Human Activity
SCI.HS-ESS3-1	Construct an explanation based on evidence for how the availability of natural resources, occurrence of natural hazards, and climate change have influenced human activity.
SCI.HS.ESS3.B	Natural Hazards
SCI.HS-ESS3-2	Evaluate competing design solutions for developing, managing, and utilizing energy and mineral resources based on cost-benefit ratios.
SCI.HS.ESS3.A	Natural Resources
SCI.HS-ESS3-3	Create a computational simulation to illustrate the relationships among management of natural resources, the sustainability of human populations, and biodiversity.
SCI.HS-ESS3-4	Evaluate or refine a technological solution that reduces impacts of human activities on climate change and other natural systems.
SCI.HS.ESS3.C	Human Impacts on Earth Systems
SCI.HS-ESS3-5	Analyze geoscience data and the results from global climate models to make an evidence-based forecast of the current rate of global or regional climate change and associated future impacts to Earth systems.
	Analyzing and Interpreting Data
	Stability and Change
SCI.HS-ESS3-6	Use a computational representation to illustrate the relationships among Earth systems and how those relationships are being modified due to human activity (i.e., climate change).
SCI.HS.ESS2.D	Weather and Climate
SCI.HS.ESS3.D	Global Climate Change
SCI.HS-ETS1	Engineering Design
SCI.HS-ETS1-1	Analyze a major global challenge to specify qualitative and quantitative criteria and constraints for solutions that account for societal needs and wants.
	Asking Questions and Defining Problems
SCI.HS.ETS1.A	Delimiting Engineering Problems
SCI.HS-ETS1-2	Design a solution to a complex real-world problem by breaking it down into smaller, more manageable problems that can be solved through engineering.
SCI.HS.ETS1.C	Optimizing the Design Solution
SCI.HS-ETS1-3	Evaluate a solution to a complex real-world problem based on prioritized criteria and trade-offs that account for a range of constraints, including cost, safety, reliability, and aesthetics, as well as possible social, cultural, and environmental impacts.
	Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions
SCI.HS-ETS1-4	Use a computer simulation to model the impact of proposed solutions to a complex real-world problem with numerous criteria and constraints on interactions within and between systems relevant to the problem.
	Using Mathematics and Computational Thinking
SCI.HS.ETS1.B	Developing Possible Solutions
	Systems and System Models

Interdisciplinary Standards

MA.K-12.1	Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.

MA.K-12.2	Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
MA.K-12.3	Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
MA.K-12.4	Model with mathematics.
MA.K-12.5	Use appropriate tools strategically.
MA.K-12.6	Attend to precision.
MA.K-12.7	Look for and make use of structure.
MA.K-12.8	Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.
LA.RST.9-10.1	Accurately cite strong and thorough evidence from the text to support analysis of science and technical texts, attending to precise details for explanations or descriptions.
LA.RST.9-10.2	Determine the central ideas, themes, or conclusions of a text; trace the text's explanation or depiction of a complex process, phenomenon, or concept; provide an accurate summary of the text.
LA.RST.9-10.3	Follow precisely a complex multistep procedure when carrying out experiments, taking measurements, or performing technical tasks, attending to special cases or exceptions defined in the text.
LA.RST.9-10.4	Determine the meaning of symbols, key terms, and other domain-specific words and phrases as they are used in a specific scientific or technical context relevant to grades 9-10 texts and topics.
LA.RST.9-10.5	Analyze the relationships among concepts in a text, including relationships among key terms (e.g., force, friction, reaction force, energy).
LA.RST.9-10.6	Determine the author's purpose in providing an explanation, describing a procedure, or discussing an experiment in a text, defining the question the author seeks to address.
LA.RST.9-10.7	Translate quantitative or technical information expressed in words in a text into visual form (e.g., a table or chart) and translate information expressed visually or mathematically (e.g., in an equation) into words.
LA.RST.9-10.8	Determine if the reasoning and evidence in a text support the author's claim or a recommendation for solving a scientific or technical problem.
LA.RST.9-10.9	Compare and contrast findings presented in a text to those from other sources (including their own experiments), noting when the findings support or contradict previous explanations or accounts.
LA.WHST.9-10.1	Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant sufficient textual and non-textual evidence.
LA.WHST.9-10.2	Write informative/explanatory texts, including the narration of historical events, scientific procedures/experiments, or technical processes.
LA.WHST.9-10.4	Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
LA.WHST.9-10.5	Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience.
LA.WHST.9-10.6	Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, share, and update writing products, taking advantage of technology's capacity to link to other information and to display information flexibly and dynamically.
LA.WHST.9-10.7	Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.
LA.WHST.9-10.8	Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the usefulness of each source in answering the

	research question; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.
LA.WHST.9-10.9	Draw evidence from informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

21st Century Life and Career Ready Practice Standards

CRP.K-12.CRP1.1	Career-ready individuals understand the obligations and responsibilities of being a member of a community, and they demonstrate this understanding every day through their interactions with others. They are conscientious of the impacts of their decisions on others and the environment around them. They think about the near-term and long-term consequences of their actions and seek to act in ways that contribute to the betterment of their teams, families, community and workplace. They are reliable and consistent in going beyond the minimum expectation and in participating in activities that serve the greater good.
CRP.K-12.CRP2.1	Career-ready individuals readily access and use the knowledge and skills acquired through experience and education to be more productive. They make connections between abstract concepts with real-world applications, and they make correct insights about when it is appropriate to apply the use of an academic skill in a workplace situation.
CRP.K-12.CRP3.1	Career-ready individuals understand the relationship between personal health, workplace performance and personal well-being; they act on that understanding to regularly practice healthy diet, exercise and mental health activities. Career-ready individuals also take regular action to contribute to their personal financial well-being, understanding that personal financial security provides the peace of mind required to contribute more fully to their own career success.
CRP.K-12.CRP4.1	Career-ready individuals communicate thoughts, ideas, and action plans with clarity, whether using written, verbal, and/or visual methods. They communicate in the workplace with clarity and purpose to make maximum use of their own and others' time. They are excellent writers; they master conventions, word choice, and organization, and use effective tone and presentation skills to articulate ideas. They are skilled at interacting with others; they are active listeners and speak clearly and with purpose. Career-ready individuals think about the audience for their communication and prepare accordingly to ensure the desired outcome.
CRP.K-12.CRP5.1	Career-ready individuals understand the interrelated nature of their actions and regularly make decisions that positively impact and/or mitigate negative impact on other people, organization, and the environment. They are aware of and utilize new technologies, understandings, procedures, materials, and regulations affecting the nature of their work as it relates to the impact on the social condition, the environment and the profitability of the organization.
CRP.K-12.CRP6.1	Career-ready individuals regularly think of ideas that solve problems in new and different ways, and they contribute those ideas in a useful and productive manner to improve their organization. They can consider unconventional ideas and suggestions as solutions to issues, tasks or problems, and they discern which ideas and suggestions will add greatest value. They seek new methods, practices, and ideas from a variety of sources and seek to apply those ideas to their own workplace. They take action on their ideas and understand how to bring innovation to an organization.
CRP.K-12.CRP7.1	Career-ready individuals are discerning in accepting and using new information to make decisions, change practices or inform strategies. They use reliable research process to search for new information. They evaluate the validity of sources when considering the use and adoption of external information or practices in their workplace situation.
CRP.K-12.CRP8.1	Career-ready individuals readily recognize problems in the workplace, understand the nature of the problem, and devise effective plans to solve the problem. They are aware of problems when they occur and take action quickly to address the problem; they

	thoughtfully investigate the root cause of the problem prior to introducing solutions. They carefully consider the options to solve the problem. Once a solution is agreed upon, they follow through to ensure the problem is solved, whether through their own actions or the actions of others.
CRP.K-12.CRP9.1	Career-ready individuals consistently act in ways that align personal and community-held ideals and principles while employing strategies to positively influence others in the workplace. They have a clear understanding of integrity and act on this understanding in every decision. They use a variety of means to positively impact the directions and actions of a team or organization, and they apply insights into human behavior to change others' action, attitudes and/or beliefs. They recognize the near-term and long-term effects that management's actions and attitudes can have on productivity, morals and organizational culture.
CRP.K-12.CRP10.1	Career-ready individuals take personal ownership of their own education and career goals, and they regularly act on a plan to attain these goals. They understand their own career interests, preferences, goals, and requirements. They have perspective regarding the pathways available to them and the time, effort, experience and other requirements to pursue each, including a path of entrepreneurship. They recognize the value of each step in the education and experiential process, and they recognize that nearly all career paths require ongoing education and experience. They seek counselors, mentors, and other experts to assist in the planning and execution of career and personal goals.
CRP.K-12.CRP11.1	Career-ready individuals find and maximize the productive value of existing and new technology to accomplish workplace tasks and solve workplace problems. They are flexible and adaptive in acquiring new technology. They are proficient with ubiquitous technology applications. They understand the inherent risks-personal and organizational-of technology applications, and they take actions to prevent or mitigate these risks.
CRP.K-12.CRP12.1	Career-ready individuals positively contribute to every team, whether formal or informal. They apply an awareness of cultural difference to avoid barriers to productive and positive interaction. They find ways to increase the engagement and contribution of all team members. They plan and facilitate effective team meetings.

Technology Standards

TECH.8.1.12	Educational Technology: All students will use digital tools to access, manage, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to solve problems individually and collaborate and to create and communicate knowledge.
TECH.8.1.12.A	Technology Operations and Concepts: Students demonstrate a sound understanding of technology concepts, systems and operations.
TECH.8.1.12.B	Creativity and Innovation: Students demonstrate creative thinking, construct knowledge and develop innovative products and process using technology.
TECH.8.1.12.C	Communication and Collaboration: Students use digital media and environments to communicate and work collaboratively, including at a distance, to support individual learning and contribute to the learning of others.
TECH.8.1.12.D	Digital Citizenship: Students understand human, cultural, and societal issues related to technology and practice legal and ethical behavior.
TECH.8.1.12.E	Research and Information Fluency: Students apply digital tools to gather, evaluate, and use information.
TECH.8.1.12.F	Critical thinking, problem solving, and decision making: Students use critical thinking skills to plan and conduct research, manage projects, solve problems, and make informed decisions using appropriate digital tools and resources.
TECH.8.2.12	Technology Education, Engineering, Design, and Computational Thinking - Programming: All students will develop an understanding of the nature and impact of technology,

	engineering, technological design, computational thinking and the designed world as they relate to the individual, global society, and the environment.
TECH.8.2.12.A	The Nature of Technology: Creativity and Innovation: Technology systems impact every aspect of the world in which we live.
TECH.8.2.12.B	Technology and Society: Knowledge and understanding of human, cultural and society values are fundamental when designing technology systems and products in the global society.
TECH.8.2.12.C	Design: The design process is a systematic approach to solving problems.
TECH.8.2.12.D	Abilities for a Technological World: The designed world is the product of a design process that provides the means to convert resources into products and systems.
TECH.8.2.12.E	Computational Thinking: Programming: Computational thinking builds and enhances problem solving, allowing students to move beyond using knowledge to creating knowledge.

Pacing Guide

Unit	Topic
Unit 1 Intro	What is environmental science Exploring biodiversity, sustainability and research techniques specific to environmental science Exploring and investigating concepts of matter relating specific to environmental science such as: matter organization, organic compounds, pH, physical and chemical changes, kinetic and potential energy, and the electromagnetic spectrum. Students explore system and differentiate between open and closed systems.
Unit 2 Land	Biodiversity and ecosystem Explore temporal forests as resource, compare land use management plans in regards to sustainability and ecosystem impact. Investigate forest ecosystems to describe impact of keystone species population changes, introduction of invasive species, and managing endangered species populations
Unit 3 Soil	Identify soil components and role in terrestrial ecosystems. Compare soil permabilities and soil profile of regions with United States How soils are used, soil role in food production, soil use and impact on agriculture.

	Pest management and impact of pest management strategies on ecosystems and food production
Unit 3 Water	Marine Ecosystems Biodiversity within marine and freshwater ecosystems. Explore impact of keystone species population changes, invasive species, and management of endangered species. Create a model for the how the marine ecosystems impact local and global weather patterns
Unit 4: Freshwater	Investigate freshwater as resource and determine its availability, compare to current and anticipated needs. Review conservations plans. Water pollution: Explain biomagnification. Review sources of pollution such as sewage, review sewage treatment plans
Unit 5 Atmosphere and climate	Atmosphere Identify the different spheres and construct models that explain role in climate and

	weather Identify the components of air and identify their role as resource Identify factors that influence climate. Create a model that identifies the role of air, water, and greenhouses gases. Identify the atmosphere role in transporting matter such as dust, pollution, viruses Compare changes in atmospheric patterns over time.
Energy	Identify sources of energy from renewable to renewable, describing the impact of generating the energy Explore energy use in transportation and develop a model transportation device usin alternative energy Identify strategies in to increase energy efficiency Compare global energy usage patterns and predict impact of energy use increases on environment, social structures, and economies.

Formative and Summative Assessment

Teachers ultilize a variety of methods for assesment including:

	Unit Tests and Quizzes	**Labs, Projects & Classwork**	**Lab Assessments**	**Homework**
Category Criteria	Individual assessments based on specific or general content knowledge.	Any group work primarily completed in class to be checked and/or graded for completion.	Individual assessments based on group lab work. Lab data and other notes may sometimes be used.	Any work assigned to be completed outside of the classroom.

All students take a common Midterm and Final Exam.

Grading and Evaluation Guidelines

Marking period grades for Environmental Science will be determined using the following weighting:

- Tests, quizzes: 50%
- Labs and Classwork: 40%
- Homework: 10%

A point system is used within each grading category so that assessments with a higher point value make a more significant contribution to that category's grade.

The final grade for the course is a weighted average of the four marking period grades and exams (Quarterlys). The following weightings are used in this calculation:

- Marking period 1: 20%
- Marking period 2: 20%
- Midterm Exam: 10%
- Marking period 3: 20%
- Marking period 4: 20%
- Final Exam: 10%

The content, teaching strategies, common assessments, and student results for this course are evaluated annually.

Other Details

Course Number: 1103
School where class is offered: East Brunswick High School
Grade level: 10-12

SCED: 03003 Environmental Science

Environmental Science courses examine the mutual relationships between organisms and their environment. In studying the interrelationships among plants, animals, and humans, these courses usually cover the following subjects: photosynthesis, recycling and regeneration, ecosystems, population and growth studies, pollution, and conservation of natural resources.