

Environmental Systems

Course Syllabus, 2024-2025

Jim Ned ISD

Teacher: Ms. Scott

Conference: 8th pd

Email: rscott@jimned.esc14.net

COURSE DESCRIPTION: In Environmental Systems, students conduct laboratory and field investigations, use scientific methods and engineering design processes during investigations, and make informed decisions using critical thinking and scientific problem solving. Students study a variety of topics that include: biotic and abiotic factors in habitats, ecosystems and biomes, interrelationships among resources and an environmental system, sources and flow of energy through an environmental system, relationship between carrying capacity and changes in populations and ecosystems, and changes in environments.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES:

1. Obtain a foundation in Environmental Systems that is applicable towards further science studies and/or careers.
2. Gain an understanding of the various Earth systems and factors that affect our environment.
3. Utilize modern techniques of learning including technology, group work, and problem solving.
4. To present a historical as well as current perspective in the field of environmental science.
5. To become aware of modern laboratory techniques.
6. To refine cognitive skills in recall and reasoning.

COURSE OUTLINE:

Introduction:	Processes for Scientific Investigations
Unit 1:	Relationships of Biotic and Abiotic Factors
Unit 2:	Alterations in an Ecosystem
Unit 3:	Interrelationships Among Resources
Unit 4:	Sources and Flow of Energy
Unit 5:	Environments Change Naturally
Unit 6:	Population Dynamics
Unit 7:	Human Impact through Emissions and Pollutants
Unit 8:	Actions Impact Environmental Systems

Unit 9: Ethics and Economic Priorities
Unit 10: Legislation Mediates Human Impact

GRADING POLICY: A minimum of two (2) major exams will be recorded each six-weeks period. Lecture tests will include any combination of multiple-choice, matching, fill-in-the-blank, and short-answer questions. Exam questions may cover material from the textbook, lecture notes, handouts, laboratory assignments, and research assignments.

Tests.....	40%
Lab Assignments	30%
Quizzes	20%
Classwork.....	10%

LATE WORK: Lab reports/papers are due at the first of the class period on the date they are due unless otherwise noted. *Late work will receive a grade of up to a “70” in the grade book.*

MISSED WORK DUE TO ABSENCES: Students should obtain make-up work during morning tutorials. This will help to minimize disruption of classroom instruction. *It is the responsibility of the student to obtain missed work from the teacher.*

Extracurricular or “Planned” Excused Absences: *The student is responsible for collecting assignments prior to the absence.*

Other Absences: *An assignment with the student’s name written on it is placed in the “Missed Work” (Absences) tray on the back desk automatically on the day a student is absent. Students should come to my room before school on the day they return to get their daily make-up work. Students have two school days (48 hours) to complete and turn in missed daily work from the date they return. If the work is not completed within the allotted time, it will not be accepted and a “missing” grade will remain in the gradebook. (Count as zeros).*

*Most missed notes or assignments will also be posted in Google Classroom.

TUTORIAL SESSIONS: If you need to seek additional help in this course, you may come into tutorials before school (7:45-8:05 AM everyday except Tuesdays) or during my conference period. *There is no excuse for not being prepared if you fail to take advantage of these tutorial sessions.*

RESTROOM POLICY: Students are expected to use the restroom during the passing period. If there is an urgent request, the following procedures will be followed:

- When a student has approval to leave the classroom, the student will record their name and the time they left on a sign-out sheet by the door before taking a hall pass. Students must also record the time they arrive back in the classroom.
- Students will be allowed a restroom pass once per week.
- Any phones must be left on the teacher's desk.
- Students will not be allowed to ask to leave the classroom within the first 10 minutes *or* last 10 minutes of class.

STUDENT CONDUCT: Students are expected to take responsibility in helping to maintain a classroom environment conducive to learning. In order to assure all students have the opportunity to gain from the time spent in class, students are expected to:

- Refrain from making offensive remarks, reading material not related to class, sleeping, or engaging in any other form of disruptive behavior as stated in the current student handbook.
- Phones must be turned *off* and *put away* during class. Any phone seen or heard during class will be confiscated by the teacher and submitted to the campus office.
- An obvious lack of integrity (cheat, lie, etc.) on any assignment or test will result in an immediate zero.
- Chromebooks must be brought to class daily with sufficient charge. Use will be determined by teacher discretion.
- Released from class by the teacher, not by the bell.

- 1. Be Prepared For Class**
- 2. Treat Others With Respect**
- 3. Do Your Own Work**

I have read, understand, and agree to the above policy statements for Environmental Systems.

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____ Date: _____