

Folsom-Cordova Unified School District
AP Environmental Science Course Expectations
Vista del Lago High School
Fall 2018 - Spring 2019

Instructor: Miss Miranda Ayad

Contact Information: mayad@fcusd.org (best way to reach me)
(916) 294-2410 x. 410268

Course Description: The AP Environmental Science (APES) Course is designed to be the equivalent of a one-semester, introductory college course in environmental science and to prepare students for the APES Exam. APES is a lab science including chemistry, physics, geology, biology, environmental studies, environmental science, and geography. It also incorporates a sociological and political perspective. APES is designed to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made, to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and to examine alternative solutions for resolving and/or preventing them.

AP Exam: Monday, May 6, 2019 12 PM

Classroom Rules and Conduct: The following rules will apply, as well as those outlined in the student handbook.

- ✓ Be Prompt – Be in your assigned seat and working before the bell rings.
- ✓ Be Prepared: Clear desk of all materials not pertaining to the task at hand; have needed materials ready before bell.
- ✓ Be Productive: Participate in class work, and remain engaged in activities and simulations.
- ✓ Be Positive: Avoid behavior that disrupts the learning process.
- ✓ Be Polite: Treat all students and the instructor with kindness.

Also, I expect everyone to follow the 4 R's for appropriate communication in the classroom:

Respectful, Relevant, Reasonable, & Responsible

Failure to abide by these expectations will result in detentions, parent contacts, class suspensions and administrative referrals.

Electronic Devices (cell phones, all musical apparatus, games, etc)

In the classroom, all devices must be turned off /powered down and carried in a non-visible manner, UNLESS approval is given by the teacher. If the device is in use during the class without prior instructor approval, the following will occur:

1. Warning: confiscation of device by teacher; student picks up at end of period
2. 30 minute detention: confiscation of device by teacher; to be picked up in the VP office after school.
3. Addressed by administration

Dress Code

Students will follow established school rules. Violators will be sent to the office to determine if the attire does not meet the appropriate standards for an educational environment. Eyes and ears must be visible; no hoods, no headphones or earbuds.

Tardies

Please refer to your student handbook for school-wide policies regarding attendance and tardies. Since this is a hands-on class, it is especially important that students are in class on time, ready to work each day. Tardy = not in your assigned seat when the bell rings and materials ready to prepare for daily activity

1st, 2nd, & 3rd = warning

4th = 15 minutes detention

5th = 30 minutes detention

6th = 50 minutes detention

7th = one day class suspension

8th = two day class suspension

9th = Referral to Student Attendance Review Team (Out of School Suspension)

Citizenship Evaluation

Citizenship is reported separately from academic grades. Course citizenship includes both work habits and attitude/behavior. Good citizenship is vital to a positive, productive school environment. Students who receive two or more unsatisfactory citizenship marks on a grade report may not be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities including athletics, dances, rallies, nonacademic music and theater performances, and club activities.

The following citizenship grades will be part of the academic grading report:

- ✓ O=Attitude, behavior and participation exceed the expected level for the class; exceptional attendance; no tardies; very few absences
- ✓ S=Attitude and behavior maintains expected classroom environment; good attendance; participation at expected level; less than 3 tardies per semester; (most students will fall under this category of citizenship)
- ✓ N=Attitude and behavior often diminishes level of the class; inconsistent attendance; 4 tardies per semester; participation below expected level; does not use class time wisely; one class suspension
- ✓ U=Attitude and behavior reflect disregard and disrespect for others and creates an unsafe (mentally and/or physically) environment; very poor attendance; 5 or more tardies per semester; does not use class time wisely; often disruptive; two or more class suspensions

Students who display any kind of unsafe behavior, especially during labs, will receive a class suspension and may possibly be excluded from any future lab activity.

Academic Dishonesty

All students are expected to adhere to the school wide academic dishonesty policy – see website for a copy of the Academic Integrity Contract. Students found to commit an academically dishonest act will be referred to the administration.

Method of Academic Evaluation

In a balanced assessment system, both formative and summative assessments are essential as tools for gathering and reporting student achievement. However, formative assessments are assessments FOR learning (homework, some quizzes, some lab activities, etc. . .). They are used for practice, skill development and guiding instruction. Summative assessments are the assessments OF learning (presentations, exams, end of chapter quizzes, major lab experiments, etc. . .). Summative assessments are used as a final measure of student learning at the end of a unit of study. Therefore summative assessments will be the basis for the student grade.

This weighted grading scale will be used in APES class:

Formative Assessments:	10%
Summative Assessments:	70%
Final Exam:	20%

97% = A+	88% = B+	78% = C+	68% = D+	Below 59.9% = F
93% = A	83% = B	73% = C	63% = D	
90% = A-	80% = B-	70% = C-	60% = D-	

Homework

This course emphasizes a hands-on and project approach and only so much work can be done in class. The purpose of homework is to provide independent practice, preparation and extended learning opportunities necessary to successfully master course content. Homework will consist of reading assignments, lab preparations and write-ups, written assignments, and projects. The instructor will accept no late work without prior approval.

Tests

A test will be given at the end of each unit. A comprehensive final exam will be administered at the end of each semester. Final exams will not be administered early for any reason. Students who miss their final exams will be issued a grade of *Incomplete* for the semester and will need to make up missed final exams during the first two weeks of the following semester to replace the *Incomplete* grade.

Make-ups

Students that have missed assignments due to excused absences are responsible for obtaining work (at an appropriate time) upon their return. Make-up assignments must be turned in no later than one week after returning from the absence. Some make-up work (such as labs) must be completed during Flex Time, during lunch, or before or after school. Test and quiz make ups **must be completed the day you return from an absence OR at teacher discretion**. Unexcused absences are not eligible for make-up work.

Materials Recommended

Students are to have in their possession every day that this class meets: a pencil, a pen (blue or black), and a three ring binder with plenty of ruled paper (minimum of 1 inch thick; it may be shared with other classes). If you have difficulty obtaining these materials, please talk to me as soon as possible. I also suggest bringing a metric ruler, and colored pens or colored pencils.

All daily agendas, class notes, completed assignments, homework, reports, tests, and hand-outs must be kept in this binder.

Textbooks & class materials

All students will be issued a textbook for at-home use. Students will be held financially responsible should the textbook be damaged or lost. This class will involve lab activities using materials that will enhance the student's learning experience. Many of these materials are expensive and/or difficult to replace. Additionally, some of these materials may present a hazard to the student or others if misused. Students who intentionally abuse any classroom materials, equipment, furnishings or personal belongings of others will be responsible for the replacement or repair costs should their abuse cause damage, and may face additional disciplinary action depending upon the severity of the abuse.

SchoolWires & Communication

I believe that communication with students' families is critical and we have several resources available to help facilitate this. The first resource is my website, which can be accessed through the Vista website at www.fcusd.org/vdlhs. All teacher webpages can be accessed from this site and will contain information about assignments, calendars, etc. Your student will need to access course materials through my teacher webpage and Google Classroom- the codes for which are available on the teacher webpage and will be communicated on the first day of class. The second resource available is the PowerSchool Parent Portal. The link to this secure resource can be found from the school website or my webpage and contains information about grades & attendance. You and your student are also encouraged to enroll in Remind to receive immediate messages and announcements. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any concerns. mayad@fcusd.org I can also be reached at the school phone number at (916) 294-2410 x. 410268.

Vista del Lago High School is committed to equal opportunity for all individuals. Activities shall be free from discrimination based on gender, race, color, religion, national origin, ethnic group, marital or parental status, physical or mental disability or any other unlawful condition.

Students: Please file these course expectations in the front of your binder.

