

2022-2023 Environmental Systems & Society

Mr. Ojala: Room 387

Course material areas of focus:

I. Scientific Method, Measurement, Lab Skills & Lab Report Format, (T1) ESS Foundations
II. (T2) Ecosystems & Ecology
III. (T3) Biodiversity & Conservation
IV. (T5) Soil Systems & Ter. Food Prod. V. (T4) Water systems & Aqu. Food Prod.
VI. (T6) Atmospheric Systems VII. Internal Assessment
VIII. (T8) Human Systems & Resource Use X. (T7) Climate Change & Energy Production

Teacher hours: I will be available before class daily starting at 7:30 am. My class will also be open at lunch by appointment, after school daily, and weekly during *office hours* for extra credit, studying / tutoring and make-up work or tests.

Grading policy: Grading will be calculated according to this grading system:

90-100% = A 80-89% = B 70-79 % = C
60-69% = D under 60% = F

Late assignments (without documented excuse) are subject to a 50% score reduction.

Assignment types and grade weighting: Grades will be based on an accumulation of points. Weekly bell work assignments will generally be 5 points, with in class assignments and homework assignments also made to be worth 5 points. Lab reports will be worth 12-25 points, while quizzes and unit tests will be worth either 50 or 100 points. Each semester will also have one more comprehensive lab report that will be scored for 100 points. Tests will all be closed notes and any study guides or materials generated will not be available to you on exam day. Extra credit will be allowed in this class, but capped at 10% of the points accumulated, so it is very important to keep up with assignments and homework so that you do not fall behind.

Homework will be assigned at least once per week. *Homework will not usually consist of finishing an assignment begun in class, but will more often involve learning terminology and concepts in advance of classroom discussion, activities, and assessment.* It will typically be assigned two or more days before it is due to maximize the time available for its completion.

Assignments missed due to absence are to be made up during office hours or on your own time as soon as possible. All work completed should have your name, the date, class period, and assignment name identified in the upper right hand corner of the paper.

Materials: Required text = Environmental Systems and Societies, Standard Level, for the IB Diploma (Pearson Baccalaureate) 2nd Edition

Paper (a 3-ring binder works best so that you can keep your hand-outs, notes, and assignments together), Pencil

Attendance: Although attendance is not figured directly into your grade, a few absences can seriously affect your performance in this class.

Assessment / Projects: Those students taking the ESS course as part of the Diploma Program, or for a certificate, will have scores prepared outside of school with the following breakdown:

Final exam Paper 1 (case study): 25%

Final exam Paper 2 (short answer / essay): 50%

Internal Assessment (individual project): 25%

All students will take a final exam (mine or the IB Paper 1/2 tests) on the same two days in May. All students will conduct an Internal Assessment, which is a single project that will take about 10 hours to complete. Your investigation will follow the lab report elements that we work on in class, and will hinge on an environmental issue that can be local or national / international. This project probes an area of the syllabus you feel strongly about and is assessed via written report in the 1500 to 2250-word range. The semester one final exam score will consist of presenting the beginning of your Internal Assessment project.

Key dates / deadlines (subject to minor change):

Topic 1 exam: 10/18 or 19/2022

Topic 2 exam: 11/21-22/22

Topic 3 exam: 12/16/22

Topic 5 exam: 1/13/22

Internal assessment project proposal & context due: 1/20/22

Topic 4 exam: 2/16/22

Topic 6 exam: 3/7/22

IA completed project due: 3/17/22

Topic 8 exam: 4/13/22

Group 4 project: n/a

Topic 7 exam: 4/28/22

Final exam: 5/5 & 5/8/22

Class expectations:

1. Respect each other and focus on learning.
2. Be timely.
3. Come to class prepared.
4. Actively listen and give your full attention to class discussions (not yours.)
5. Exercise the Golden Rule.

Be Safe.

Be Respectful.

Be Responsible.

Be a Graduate.

Be a KNIGHT!



Response if classroom expectations are not met.

- 1st: Warning.
- 2nd: Talk after class / detention & parent contact.
- 3rd: Detention / phone call home / counselor referral.
- 4th: Detention / parent contact / Office Discipline Referral.

I can be reached at the number or e-mail listed below if you would like to discuss any aspect of your and/or your child's involvement in this class. Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Eric Ojala".

Eric Ojala, Science Educator

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