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| **Environmental Systems Course Syllabus**  ***School Year 2025-2026***  Teacher: Dr. Michael Farner  Room #: S106  E-mail address: michael.farner@fortbendisd.gov  Phone #: 281-329-2439  Conference Period: 2nd Period  Tutorials: TUE @ 2:45 – 3:45 pm | Image result for thurgood marshall high school logo |

**Welcome to Environmental Science:**

This will be an exciting, high-achieving year, and I look forward to getting to know each of you. These pages contain information about the purpose and structure of the class, what you need to succeed in this class, and information on how to contact me. In Environmental Science, students conduct laboratory and field investigations using the scientific method and make informed decisions using critical thinking. 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, relationships between carrying capacity and changes in populations and ecosystems, and changes in environments. Please retain this syllabus for future reference. In addition, all of the information covered in this syllabus will always be available in Schoology.

**Important:** Some policies may be revised as the year continues as a result of the ever-changing situation of a school year. Flexibility, adaptability, and patience are some qualities for everyone to keep in mind as we work our way through this school year.

**Attendance**

Attendance is extremely important in Environmental Science, and you will be marked present when you are seated in your seat at the bell. Tardy if you are not seated in your seat at the bell. Exemption qualifications are determined by less than 8 absences, 80% and above. Each day we introduce different concepts and skills that are a foundation for the information that will follow throughout the year. The class schedule along with assignments' due dates will be posted on Schoology.

**Materials**

* **Laptop & charger**
* **A 2 inch 3-ring binder**
* **Writing utensils**

**Assignments and Homework**

Homework and classwork will be assigned through **Schoology** **OR** given as work for student binders. Students will be subject to periodic binder checks for a grade. Binder checks will be part of regular grading.

During each unit, the problems assigned are mostly specific to the unit topic but may also include review problems.

Students will also be asked to demonstrate the writing and scientific communication skills using CER (Claim-Evidence-Reasoning) format at various points. Assignments may also include larger scale projects that inform on lesson topics in depth.

**Late Work and Absences**

Homework, classwork and projects should be turned in on the due date to receive full credit. **Work turned in the next day after the due date will receive 70 maximum credit**. For each additional day work is late, the teacher reserves the right to- reduce the maximum possible grade by 5% per day. Late work will be accepted for a lesser grade up to the end of the current nine-week grading period. Students are responsible for any missed assignment due to absences (e.g. UIL trips) and to make it up within **three days** of return to class. Failure to meet the deadline may result in a lower grade. All labs missed must be completed after school within **one week** of the absence. The teacher reserves the right to give an alternate make-up work or assignment.

**Tutoring**

Extra tutoring is available to students struggling with concepts presented in this class. It is the student’s responsibility to come get the help that they need. A schedule of my availability will be posted but students must contact me in advance to make sure that I am available for a specific afternoon. **Regular tutorial times are every Tuesday from 2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. or by appointment unless otherwise indicated.** Anyone who need extra help, must let me know as soon as possible.

**Do Now/Do First**

Most days there will be a warm-up assignment that is to be completed on a weekly Do Now Form that goes in student binders. We will go over how to access this during class time. Students are expected to complete the Do Now when present.

**Assessment**

Students take two major tests every nine weeks, corresponding to each unit we cover. Comprehensive final exams (semester exam) will be given each semester. Tests can be retaken within three days of receiving a failing grade, but the student must talk to the teacher if they wish to do so. The teacher reserves the right to administer a different make-up test or exam. The maximum score that may be earned on a retest is 75 percent. Quizzes may be given and may be unannounced. Projects are also included as a form of assessment.

**Grading Scale**

Student’s grade will be determined on the following scale:

50 % = Major grades (unit test, quiz, labs)

50 % = Daily grades (homework, warm up problems, citizenship, binder checks)

General guidelines for report card letter grades are:

90 – 100 A

80 – 89 B

75 – 79 C

70 – 74 D

69 & Below F (not passing)

I Incomplete

NG No grade

**Academic Integrity**

Teachers expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. It is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of honor in his or her scholastic work. If a student is caught cheating or using his/her cellphone during a test/exam, the test/exam will be void and the student will face the consequences of academic dishonesty. **THIS ALSO APPLIES TO UNAUTHORIZED USE OF ANY AND ALL A.I. ENGINES.**

**Expectations**

Students are expected to:

1. *Be on time to class.*
2. *Be prepared with materials and assigned work.*
3. *Participate in class discussions and laboratory investigations.*
4. *Follow all laboratory procedures and safety rules/guidelines.*
5. *Put away personal electronic devices otherwise it will be confiscated according to school policy if used inappropriately (ex. gaming, social networking, messaging, email, recording, etc.)*

*6. While the teacher is actively teaching and the Chromebook is being used, all Chromebooks are to be placed flat on the student desk. Student Chromebook screens are always to be visible to the teacher.*

*7. Students are not allowed to record AT ANY TIME audio, photos, or videos of other students or staff without their explicit permission.*

*8. Treat themselves, their classmates, and the teachers with respect at all times.*

*9. Seek appropriate help or clarification when needed. Students are expected to demonstrate ownership of their learning and success in this class*

*10. Adhere to all guidelines, behaviors, and conditions as stated in the student handbook*