

Lexington High School

Environmental Science Emphasizing Ecology

TEACHER: Mr. Ben Klein
ROOM: #802
PERIODS: 4th and 7th

PHONE: 324-4691(email works best)
EMAIL: ben.klein@lexschools.org
COURSE: Ecology

TEXT:

- *Environmental Science*. Holt-Mifflin-Harcourt Publishing. 2013.
- *COLLAPSE: How societies choose to fail or succeed*. Jarod Diamond. Penguin Publishing. 2011.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: In this course will be looking at how organisms interact with their environment (both living and non-living). As this is only a semester class it will be very intensive. I would like to be outside, experiencing the environments near us, as much as time and weather permit.

COURSE OUTLINE:

- Introduction of basic concepts
- Population Interactions and Energy Movement
- Population genetics and statistics (aka speciation)
- Matter Cycling
- Biomes
- Biodiversity

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- 1-1/2 inch 3 ring binder
- Loose leaf notebook paper (college ruled)
- Pencil/pen (Several assorted colors will be useful)
- iPad

ASSIGNMENT MAKE-UP:

To receive full credit for every assignment homework must be turned in on time. In order to comply with current school policy students must turn in work prior to leaving for school sponsored activities. If assignment is not turned in prior to school sponsored absence district protocol will be followed. Unless prior arrangements have been made with me. In the event you are absent when an assignment is due you will have 1 week to turn that missed assignment in to me.

GRADING BREAKDOWN:

Semester Grade Breakdown

45% - Q1

45% - Q2

10% - Semester Exam

Quarter Grade Breakdown

50% - Assessments (Plant project will count as a test grade)

20% - Participation

30% - Homework

PARTICIPATION:

To comply with current district policy this class will enact the following action. Every day you will be given 5 points for participation. Those points will be totaled up at the end of the week.

Additionally participation points will be taken away for, and not limited to,, late work, absence from class, etc. Those points can be earned back once a make up plan has been established with the teacher.

Points lost due to tardy, detentions, misbehavior, class time missed due to suspension, or other grossly negligent behaviors that cause loss of instructional time cannot be recovered.

CHEATING:

Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. Examples include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, crib sheets, looking off fellow students, speaking with fellow students during quizzes or exams to name a few.

FIELD WORK EXPECTATIONS:

My goal is to be outside in the environment as much as weather and time permit. You should be prepared to go outside daily. You will need to have clothes that you will be okay with getting dirty/wet (this includes shirt, pants, and shoes). Also if you have allergies you should make sure that you take antihistamines and have gloves for the handling/collection of irritating plants. While I do not intend for you to intentionally handle plants with may cause irritation in some individuals(i.e. poison ivy), it is possible that you (the student) may accidentally touch one of these plants as you are novices.

Also, in rare instances, we may happen upon various forms of wildlife. At no point should you attempt to interact with these animals. Wild animals are unpredictable and can be dangerous when threatened. In the event that you see a wild animal notify me immediately and I will prescribe you the appropriate course of action.

In a related note, throwing sticks, rocks, and the like at any wildlife constitutes harassment of wildlife. Should you choose to do the above listed action I will promptly

call our friendly NGPC Conservation Officers and notify them of your criminal actions. Additionally, you will be prohibited from future nature excursions that we commonly do in class. Also you will be prohibited from participating in all labs.

OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION:

- You should plan on spending between 30-60 minutes A DAY outside of this class reviewing a material. Learning happens the best when you are exposed to the information consistently and constantly.
- You will most likely have to do some Field work outside of school time. Make sure prior to entering any private property for plant collections make sure you have permission from the land owner.
- I am available nearly anytime via email to answer questions about concepts/problems in class. Also before/after school is great if you need one-on-one assistance.
- To give yourself the best chance of passing you MUST do the plant project. There are 2 phases to the plant project which total 450 points. The total amount of time to complete this project is between 4 and 5 hours. If you are able to get a 100% on the project, it is nearly impossible to fail this class. Students that do not do the plant project, almost always fail the course.