

COURSE NUMBER:	HS906
COURSE TITLE:	Earth Science
COURSE LENGTH:	Semester, One Credit (Offered spring semester only.)
PREREQUISITE:	None
GRADE LEVEL:	11 or 12

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Earth Science is a one semester class focusing on the features of and processes at work on our planet and in the universe. The course is centered upon the earth science branches of; geology, meteorology, and astronomy. Attention is given to earth history, mineral and resource distribution, geologic processes, climate and weather, the place of our planet in the universe, and the NASA mission to establish off-earth settlements.

COURSE RATIONALE:

Earth Science is a course that deals with the physical structures of our planet, and how those structures were formed. The course provides students the opportunity to gain an understanding of the economic importance of the products of the earth, and the importance of the earth processes to our continued survival. We also compare our earth to the other planets in our solar system, and the place of our solar system in the universe at large.

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION:

Most of the emphasis of this course is on student activities. Students explain their understanding of course content through various presentations and models. There is the expectation that students seek out and illustrate connections between course content and their personal experience and environment. Labs are utilized to reinforce student learning and understanding of course content. Attendance at at least two evening astronomy labs involving night sky observations is expected.

ASSESSMENT:

Approximately 34% of the grade is based on daily work and assignments. 33% is based on tests and quizzes. 33% is laboratory activities and research.

CRITICAL OBJECTIVES:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. conduct scientific investigations.
2. explain the place of the Earth in our universe.
3. model and predict weather and climate patterns.
4. describe the processes that resulted in the current geographical features of our planet.
5. model the geological processes that result in such damaging events as volcanoes and earthquakes.
6. relate course content to their own lives.
7. explain the concerns of designing a space settlement.
8. to develop skill in locating and evaluating resource material.