

COURSE NUMBER: HS911
COURSE TITLE: Environmental Science
COURSE LENGTH: One Semester, One Credit
PREREQUISITE: None
GRADE LEVEL: 9

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Environmental Science is a one credit required science course. The course is to be taken during the freshmen year of instruction. Through taking Environmental Science, the student will better understand the world, its inhabitants, and their interconnections. The focus will be on life forms, resources, and the systems and relationships which emerge through the interactions of the inhabitants of the planet earth. Historical, contemporary, and futuristic themes will be established. An emphasis will be made on the role of humans in becoming more responsible "Global Citizens,"

The structure of Environmental Science centers around four themes: 1. Resources of the Earth, 2. People as Products of Their Environment, 3. The Struggle for Survival, 4. Challenges of the Future on Earth and in Space.

COURSE RATIONALE:

Environmental Science is a one semester required course of study. Students will acquire a realistic perspective on environmental issues, problems, and become aware of the relationship between an individual's self-interest and the concerns of the people elsewhere in the world. The course will remain flexible to allow for change in emerging issues or environmental conditions.

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION:

The course will include: teacher led student discussion, small group discussion, written and constructed student projects, multimedia presentation and projects (including laser disc, video, computer simulation, CD ROM, etc.) and group work will be promoted and encouraged. Opportunities for electronic field trips and access to computer networks will be utilized.

ASSESSMENT:

Points will be recorded and averaged according to the grading scale. Homework assignments, group work assignments, projects, tests, quizzes, and class participation will be graded and evaluated in determining grades.

CRITICAL OBJECTIVES:

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

1. understand the interconnectedness of the human community, the global environment, and our finite natural resources.
2. identify lifelong methods to preserve our natural resources.
3. explain our changing attitudes toward the global environment.
4. understand the relationship between a nation's power, wealth, status, and success compared to the amount of resources they possess plus their ability to use them.

5. recognize the delicate balance that exists between the life support system of the planet and the human activities which occur within it.
6. recognize the interconnections and consequences of global events to the quality of their own lives.
7. develop a better understanding of themselves as individuals, and as members of the human race.
8. realize that efforts to bring about global cooperation on common issues must be preceded by understanding the constraints and conflicts engendered by national loyalties and regional interests.
9. realize that human activities often have unintended long-term consequences, as well as intended short-term ones.
10. realize that human choice largely determines the future.
11. develop an appreciation for the skills and attitudes that will enable them to continue learning and living on the earth.