**Environmental Science**

September 10, 2014 Coach McGee

I. **Course description**

Environmental Science is a two-semester course designed to help students become better care takers of their surrounding environment. The interactions of plants, animals, and humans in their environments are studied. Concepts are reinforced with hands on laboratory experiments, projects, and collaborative research work both online and in the field.

II. **Student outcomes**

The student who successfully completes this course will:

A. Understand that science is a process. It is a method of learning more about the world, and as a result science constantly changes the way we understand the world.

B. Explain the energy conversions which underlie all ecological processes.

C. Recognize the interconnectedness within systems ranging from microenvironments to the Earth itself.

D. Appreciate man’s ability to alter natural systems and his role in the environment.

D. Appreciate that all environmental problems have a cultural and social context.

III. **Course content**

*1st nine weeks*

Week 1-4 Earth Systems and Resources

Weeks 5-9 The Living World

Weeks 10-11 Population

Weeks 12-18 Land and Water Use

*2nd Nine Weeks*

Weeks 1-7 Energy Resources and Consumption

Weeks 8-10 Pollution

Weeks 11-13 Global Change

Weeks 14-18 Student Designed Environmental Research Projects.

IV. **Methodology**

The course is taught using lecture or demonstration that is interweaved with daily use of either hands-on laboratory experiments, project work, online simulations, or field work.

V. **Requirements**

The student’s grade will be determined by his/her performance on each day’s task/activity. Typically 10 pts per class. Longer project work and test grades will be applied based on the days accumulated on that project, quiz, or test. Consistency of effort is important.

experience.

VI. **Materials**

Course textbook: HMH Environmental Science(not required, one is available as an extra resource if requested)  
However, all class notes are available as PDFs and/or screencasts on the school’s <https://www.tcss.net/Page/30887>

Lab notebook: This must be a lab notebook, not a spiral-bound. (kept in the classroom).

If you intend of taking notes, you should also bring a separate notebook or computer.

VII. **Grading Scale**

Grades are based on points earned. You can expect most tasks to be 10 points, each unit test to be about 100 points, and about 1000 total points in each semester. The final % for each quarter is converted into a letter grade as shown:

VIII. **Instructor Information**

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Matthew McGee

(205) 342-2670

\_\_\_\_\_ I have read both the syllabus and Lab Safety Contract

Student Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_