

Environmental Science

Course Overview and Syllabus

Course Number: 5120

Grade level: 9–12

Prerequisite Courses: None

Credits: 1.0

Course Description

Environmental science is a captivating and rapidly expanding field, and this two-semester course offers compelling lessons that cover many different aspects of the field: ecology, the biosphere, land, forests and soil, water, energy and resources, and societies and policy. Through unique activities and material, high school students connect scientific theory and concepts to current, real-world dilemmas, providing them with opportunities for mastery in each of the segments throughout the semester.

Course Objectives

Throughout the course, you will meet the following goals:

- Understand the interrelationships in the natural world
- Examine the natural cycles of energy flow and evaluate how human interaction affects these cycles
- Model real-world phenomena and determine possible consequences of specific actions
- Defend the best choices to protect the environment with changing trends in human demographics
- Interpret evidence and communicate scientifically about environmental conditions and hazards

The course objectives are implemented throughout specific lessons, which include examples of scientific and scholarly texts as well as virtual labs and wet labs which allow for a real-world, hands on experience. The objectives focus on investigating, evaluating, and exploring the scientific principles which guide further research and understanding.

The lesson objectives are assessed through assignments, quizzes, unit tests, virtual and wet labs and cumulative exams.

Student Expectations

This course requires the same level of commitment from you as a traditional classroom course. Students are expected to spend approximately five to seven hours per week online on:

- Interactive lessons that include a mixture of instructional videos and tasks
- Assignments in which you apply and extend learning in each lesson
- Assessments, including quizzes, tests, and cumulative exams

Communication

Your teacher will communicate with you regularly through discussions, e-mail, chat, and system announcements, and will provide you with hours of availability, contact policies, and any synchronous attendance requirements. You will also communicate with classmates, either via online tools or face to face, as you collaborate on projects, ask and answer questions in your peer group, and develop your speaking and listening skills.

Grading Policy

You will be graded on the work you do online and the work you submit electronically to your teacher. The weighting for each category of graded activity is listed below.

Grading Category	Weight
Assignments	10%
Labs	10%
Lesson Quizzes	30%
Unit Tests	30%
Cumulative Exams	20%
Additional	0%

Scope and Sequence

When you log into Edgenuity, you can view the entire course map—an interactive scope and sequence of all topics you will study. The units of study are summarized below:

Unit 1: The Scientific Method

Unit 2: Ecology

Unit 3: The Biosphere

Unit 4: The Land

Unit 5: Forests and Soil

Unit 6: The Water

Standards Alignment

The course was designed to meet the requirements of the 2014 Oklahoma Academic Standards for science. The standards aligned to each lesson are available in the student portal in the lesson information panel.

Materials and Technology Requirements

All course materials are provided through the student portal. You will become familiar with them through an orientation video and the student handbook. These resources are available within the Student Organizer, where you can also check the status of your operating system, processor speed, plug-ins and connection speed.

Accessibility

The course is designed for accessibility to all students. The system provides features and accommodations to meet the needs of ELL and students with IEP's, 504 plans, and Section 508. These accommodations include addressing multiple learning styles, accommodations for assessments, video caption/transcripts, read-aloud and translation tools, and many other features/accommodations.