

## **Advanced Placement Environmental Science – Mr. Romano Course Expectations**

### **Course Overview:**

A.P. Environmental Science is course designed to be the equivalent of a one-semester introductory college course in Environmental Science. The goal of this course is to provide students with the scientific principles required to understand interrelationships of the natural world and analyze environmental problems. This course provides an in depth study of the interactions between the living and non-living components of the ecosystem. An introduction to ecological community concepts and the influence of chemical, geological, atmospheric and physical factors on living systems will be considered. The course provides a study of the effect of human activities on the worldwide ecosystem and provides an examination of the issues of human over-population, atmospheric change, chemical pollution and agriculture.

### **Prerequisites:**

Being that students are expected to build upon knowledge acquired in previous science class experiences, the prerequisites of this course include: Earth Science, a minimum grade of B in Biology and a B in Chemistry, 80 or higher on the Biology Regents, and a passing grade on the Chemistry Regents.

### **Topic Outline:**

- I. *Environmental Science Introduction: Sustainability and Understanding the Environment*
- II. *Systems, Matter and Energy*
- III. *Nutrient Cycles*
- IV. *Ecosystems: Structure, Function, & Interactions*
- V. *Evolution and Biodiversity*
- VI. *Climate*
- VII. *Terrestrial Biomes and Aquatic Life Zones*
- VIII. *Population Dynamics, Human Population*
- IX. *Risk & Toxicology*
- X. *Human Health and Pesticides*
- XI. *Geology and Mineral Resources*
- XII. *Energy Resources*
- XIII. *Air Pollution*
- XIV. *Solid & Hazardous Waste*

### **A.P. Exam:**

The exam date is Thursday May 10, 2018 (afternoon session). You will be given specific instructions for registration in the coming weeks. The cost of the exam is \$94. Registration & payment are made through the guidance department.

The AP exam format is as follows:

- 100 multiple choice questions (60%); time = 1.5 hours
- 4 free response questions (40%); time = 1.5 hours

**Class Procedures:**

1. Students should be prepared for class every day. Being prepared means having every item on the following list:  
dedicated binder with blank paper and all previous notes and assignments, sharpened pencils or pen, calculator
2. Students are expected to arrive on time for class and follow all class and school rules.
3. Cell phones and other electronic devices have increasingly become a major distraction from the learning process and therefore must be checked in during all class and laboratory sessions.
4. Each student's grade will be calculated based on the following percentages:

**Tests/Quizzes 70%, Laboratory 20%, Work/Accountability 10%**

5. Homework and laboratory assignments will be given clear due dates. Homework assignments must be submitted at the beginning of class on the day they are due. Many homework assignments will be reviewed immediately and cannot be made up for credit. Lengthier homework assignments that are collected will only be accepted one day after the due date at half credit. Late laboratories will be penalized 10% per day.
6. As is true with most college coursework, when there is no written assignment, it is expected that students study their written notes. We move at a very rapid pace and will cover an extensive amount of material. It is important that students be responsible and keep up with the pace by reviewing their notes on a consistent basis.
7. Tests and quizzes will always be announced to allow ample preparation time. The format of tests and quizzes will vary to include both multiple choice and free response type questions. Students are responsible for, and may be quizzed on, all reading assignments - even if the material has not been discussed in class.
8. Students are responsible for any missed work as a result of an absence. This includes obtaining all notes or handouts missed, completing classwork/homework assignments, and seeing me to make up any assignment, quiz, or test in a timely manner. When you are absent, or anticipate an absence, you must contact me via remind or email. This record of communication is a portion of your accountability grade.
9. Extra Help: My weekly extra help time is Wednesday morning 7:00-7:30am in room E10. I am also available to assist students during a common free period by appointment.
10. I encourage all communication relating to each student's individual progress.  
Office Phone: 364-5675 ext. 1264  
E-mail: [cromano@syossetschools.org](mailto:cromano@syossetschools.org)  
Website: [www.mrromano.com](http://www.mrromano.com) - information concerning assignments/test dates, class handouts/labs.  
Remind App: Text: **81010**. Type in Body: **@EnviRomano**  
Parent Portal: I ask that you please monitor your child's progress throughout the year.

Student's Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Current Cell # \_\_\_\_\_  
(mom or dad <-- circle one)

Parent's Current E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
(mom or dad <-- circle one)