

Environmental Sustainability: Course Guidelines

This course tries to answer the question of whether or not we are living in a “sustainable” environment. We will study topics such as economics and environmental policy, population and communication ecology, environmental systems, urbanization, and human populations.

You will be completing numerous different types of assignments and activities in this course. Some assignments and projects will be done individually, whereas others will require teamwork. One important goal I have in teaching is to reinforce good social skills. I expect you to be a positive force in this class and help other people be the same. Be a participator – get involved with discussions within your team and with the entire class! Dare to state your opinions. Be open to other’s ideas. Something that often makes ecological issues interesting is that there is no one simple answer; different people approach issues with different perspectives and there is essentially no right or wrong outlook or opinion.

BINDER REQUIREMENTS

It is expected that each student has **a three-ring binder** for this course. Since there is no text, your notebook becomes your primary source of information and study material. It is important that you keep your binder well-ordered and organized. Keep ALL hand-outs, worksheets, and notes. Binder checks may be done randomly throughout the semester.

Within the binder, each student should have a designated area for their “Science Journals.” Every other Friday, the students will be required to turn in a recent (no older than 6 months) journal or newspaper article pertaining to science, specifically Environmental Science. The specific format for this will be discussed later on.

Students will have the opportunity to share their articles with the class. Each student will need to be prepared to present their findings, as these students will be chosen randomly every other Friday.

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GRADES

The grading scale used for this course is as follows:

100-90	A
89-80	B
79-70	C
69-60	D
< 59	F

During a typical grading period, there will be grades on in-class assignments and activities, Science Journal articles, homework assignments, quizzes, tests, and collaborative assignments/projects.

Borderline grades will be considered, dependent on attendance, responsive and willingness to participate in class, and whether or not assignments were turned in on time.

Late work will **NOT** be accepted. The only exception will be make up work. See below for further detail. Whenever an assignment is not turned in, a missing assignment form must be completed.

Journals are to be turned in on the given date, regardless of being at school or not. Journals can always be emailed to your teacher!

You can keep track of your grade in the class through Progress Book.

CHEATING

Cheating in any form will not be tolerated! Cheating will result in 0% on any quiz/test/assignment, etc. Parents will be contacted and the principal(s) will be notified.

MAKE UP WORK

Make up work is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY. Check with your teacher immediately upon returning after an absence to determine your make up responsibilities. To turn in makeup work, you will have up to the allotted time period of your absence (i.e. if you're out three days, all make up work is due within the next three days). Anything beyond this time frame is considered late and will not be accepted. It is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY for staying caught up if you miss class.

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DISCIPLINE PROCEDURE

If disruptive behavior occurs, the teacher will enact the following discipline procedures. (These are not limited to the following.)

1st offense = warning

2nd offense = student will be given detention

3rd offense = student will be given two detentions and sent to Mr. Ross for further procedures

** NO CELL PHONES ALLOWED!!! If caught, the above procedure will also be followed.

TEACHER CONTACT

If you need to talk to me (assignment not completed, personal concerns, etc.) please do so towards the **END** of the class period.

You can contact Miss Williams or Mrs. Smotrilla, by calling the high school at (330) 533-5507 ext. 2229 (Miss Williams) or ext. 2400 (Mrs. Smotrilla) or by emailing us at ANWilliams@canfieldschools.net or jmotrilla@canfieldschools.net.