

ENVIRONMENTAL/PHYSICAL SCIENCE

Red Rock Central High School 2019-2020

Mrs. Paula Derickson, Instructor

WELCOME to Environmental/Physical Science, a one-credit science class **required for graduation** from Red Rock Central High School.

Topics that will be covered in this course include: Laboratory techniques and safety, the nature and history of science, basic chemistry concepts, basic physics concepts, and basic earth and space science topics.

Grade cutoffs are as follows:

- Above 90% - A (90-93% = A-)
- Above 80% - B (87-89% = B+; 80-83% = B-)
- Above 70% - C (77-79% = C+; 70-73% = C-)
- Above 60% - D (67-69% = D+; 60-63% = D-)

Grade weights will be approximately

- 40% tests/quizzes
- 30% daily work/science in the news
- 20% lab work (includes reports)
- 10% readiness/participation

These weights are approximate and may change depending on the subject matter and time constraints.

Extra credit opportunities will be considered on an individual basis. Contact the instructor if you feel you would benefit from extra credit assignments. In order to qualify for extra credit, you must be **current with all assignments**, and you must ask for the opportunity **no later than 2 weeks** before the end of the quarter.

My expectations of you:

- **You will come to class ready to work every day.** This means you must bring your textbook, notebook, writing utensil, calculator, and an AR book, whether they will be used every day or not. You may need your Chromebook some days; I will let you know when. You will need a blue or black pen for lab. Any other utensil used in writing lab reports will result in a reduction of points.
- **RESPECT.**
 - **Respect your classmates and the instructor.** Examples of this include: listening while others are speaking; keeping hands, feet, and materials to yourself; and making relevant contributions to class discussions.
 - **Respect all materials and equipment** both in the laboratory and the classroom.
 - **Respect RRC's cell phone policy.** Please place your cell phone, turned to silent, in the designated place for phones and leave it there until class is over. **YOU MAY NOT USE YOUR CELL PHONE UNLESS YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN PERMISSION TO DO SO.**
- **You will follow all lab safety rules at all times** while in the laboratory, for your protection as well as the safety of others.
- **You will turn in assignments on time.** Daily work is due at the beginning of the next class period unless specifically stated otherwise.
- **You will always do your best work.** If you don't understand something, please ask. Chances are, someone else has the exact same question as you do.

- **You will cover your textbook.** We will do this in class if necessary. You will need a large stretchy book cover to place over the top of the paper cover. Please keep your textbook and the cover in good repair.

Late work/absences:

- Unless prior arrangements have been made, late daily work will result in an automatic reduction of points. Total possible points will reduce by at least 10% per day the assignment is late.
- In the case of an excused absence, students have 2 days to make up daily work for each day that was missed.
- If a test is missed due to an excused absence, it will be made up **the day you return** to class. If class activities prevent making up the test during class time, you will be expected to come in early or stay after school to take the test.
- If a lab is missed due to an excused absence, arrangements must be made to make up the lab work.
- It is **your** responsibility to find out what you have missed in the event of an absence.
- If you know in advance that you will miss class, you are expected to get assignments early, do them, and turn them in on time, just as if you were in class. This applies to school sponsored trips as well as appointments, vacations, etc.

Rationale:

Even if you do not intend to pursue a career in science, it is important that you take your science classes and grades seriously. It has become a fact of life - society is dependent on technology! As a result, communities, nations, and the world will rely more heavily on its citizens (YOU) to understand the science required to make decisions on public policy. It is to everyone's benefit for you to use what you know about science to evaluate consequences of available options and make sound decisions based on those evaluations. In other words, you will need to be able to separate fact from fiction.

LET'S HAVE A GREAT YEAR!!!!

I certify that I have read the syllabus. (check one)

_____ I understood everything and I'm ready to learn!

_____ I have a question, here it is: _____

Student signature

Date

I certify that I have read the syllabus.

Parent/guardian signature

Date