Curriculum and Instruction

9-12 COURSE OF STUDY OUTLINE

Title of Course of Study: Honors Environmental Science
Course Number: ___________________ (Assigned by Curriculum Department)

9-12 Course of Study Adoption Process

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Note: Please complete all sections. Enter “none” or “n/a” as appropriate.

I. Course Title: Honors Environmental Science

II. Department/Subject Area:

- ALG - Algebra
- DRV - Driver Education
- ECO - Economics
- ELC - Electives
- F/G Family Living/World Geography
- FAL - Fine Arts/Performing Arts/Foreign Language
- GOV - Government
- HLT - Health Safety
- LIF - Life Science
- Math - Mathematics
- PE - Physical Education
- PHY - Physical Science
- USH - US History
- WH - World History
III. Length of Course: 1 year  Credit Value: 10

☑ Meets high school graduation requirement credits
☐ Elective course credit
☐ No credit

IV. Grade:
☐ 9th
☐ 10th
☑ 11th
☐ 12th

V. Course Level:  ☐ Pre-AP  ☐ AP  ☑ Honors

VI. Is this an Internet-based course?  ☐ Yes  ☑ No
   If so, who is the course provider?

VII. UC/CSU Approved Course:  ☐ Yes  ☑ No * pending
   Is this course modeled after a UC-approved course from another district?
   ☐ Yes  ☑ No  If so, which school/district? ___________________________

   UC/CSU Language (if applicable):  n/a

   Course Section Program:  n/a

VIII. Recommended pathway:
   Before taking the course, students should have successfully completed two years of high school science: 1 year of Life Science and 1 year of Physical Science.

   The recommended pathway for this course is:
   First Year: CP Conceptual Physics
   Second Year: CP Biology
   Third Year: CP Chemistry
   Fourth Year: Honors Environmental Science

IX. Brief course description:
The following themes provide a foundation for the structure of the Environmental Science course, which is adopted from the AP Environmental Science program:
   a. Science is a process.
      Science is a method of learning more about the world.
      Science constantly changes the way we understand the world.
   b. Energy Conservation underlie all ecological processes.
      Energy cannot be created, it must come from somewhere.
As energy flows through systems, at each step more of it becomes unusable.
c. The Earth itself is one interconnected system.
   Natural systems change over time and space.
   Biogeochemical systems vary in ability to recover from disturbances.
d. Environmental problems have a cultural and social context.
   Understanding the role of cultural, social, and economic factors is vital to the development of solutions.
e. Human survival depends on developing practices that will achieve sustainable systems.

X. Course goals and/or major student outcomes as aligned to Standards:
(List standard numbers that are addressed in the course)

The Environmental Science course will be offered as a laboratory science class to students who are willing to take the opportunity to study a subject in a challenging, and meaningful way. Because of the analytical component the course demands, students should have taken at least 1 year of Algebra. These prerequisites usually mean that students take the course in their junior or senior year. Because of the large amount of material that must be mastered by the end of the year, students may be responsible during school breaks for mastering some topics not covered in class. Also, it may be necessary for students to come after school to complete some of the required materials. There are many topics to be studied this year and each unit has an exam to be taken, lab activities to be conducted, and reading assignments to be completed, and a major project to be finalized at the end of each semester.

XI. Course objectives:
This course is designed to be the equivalent of a one-semester, laboratory college course in Environmental Science. It provides students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world. Students will identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made. Students will evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and examine alternative solutions for resolving and/or preventing them.

XII. Course outline: (Please use the following format; no bullets, please)
A. Introduction to Environmental Science
   1. Theory, philosophy, rhetoric, and terminology
      a. The importance of scientific method
      b. Gathering, organizing, and conducting experiments will be reviewed.

B. Life on Earth
   1. Fundamental underpinnings of Environmental Science
      a. Basic ecology and the study of populations

C. Population Dynamics, Human Population, Growth, and Demography
   1. Basic needs of human beings
      a. Needs met vs. not met and attempt to meet all needs
      b. Agriculture: history, crop production, green revolution
D. Planet Earth's Hydrosphere and Atmosphere
   1. Water
      a. Resources and management
      b. Stewardship and pollution
   2. Air
      a. Weather, climate, and pollution
E. Non-Renewable and Renewable Resources
   1. Fossil fuel reserves vs. other energy sources
      a. Advantages/disadvantages: Alt. energy
F. Environmental Issues and Policies
   1. Human impact on the environment
      a. Cultural, social, and economic factors
      b. Development of plausible solutions to environmental problems

XIII. Texts and Supplemental Instructional materials:
(Primary, Supplemental, newspapers, magazines, and software.)
Please supply ISBN #'s for all texts.

Title: Environmental Science: A Global Concern (10th ed.)

Author: Wm. Cunningham and Mary Ann Cunningham


Date of Publication: 2008 ISBN #: 978-0-07-722636-7

Board Approval Date: May 6, 2008

XIV. Key Assignments:

Environmental Stewardship:

Throughout the year, all students are required to participate in community service activities in order to earn a total of six hours per semester. Listed below are the activities students are required to participate.

Native Plant Garden at Oak Grove Regional Park:
The class will engage students in a year-long project that involves habitat development, restoration, and conservation of California native plants at Oak Grove Regional Park's Nature Center's (OGNC) garden. This project will enhance their classroom learning, develop leadership skills, and will make a difference in our neighborhood park. The fieldwork might include the development of a plan and design of the garden, planting of native vegetation, and the removal of invasive, non-native species. This experience will further serve to introduce students to possible careers in agriculture, education, and natural resource conservation, while developing their connections to the natural world.
Students are required to put in a certain number of hours per quarter, which are as follows:

First Semester
1st Quarter: 2 hrs
2nd Quarter: 2 hrs
Second Semester
3rd Quarter: 2 hrs
4th Quarter: 2 hrs

A presentation will be given by Mr. James Rexroth of OGNC which will give students a more detailed information about the project.

**Fall Semester: California Coastal Clean-Up**
Bear Creek students, for the last fifteen years, have participated and are required to put in additional two hours of community service in this state-wide coastal, watershed, river ways clean-up. Bear Creek High School has adopted Mosher Slough along Sandman Park in Stockton, as their work site. The CC Clean-Up will take place every third Saturday of September.

**Spring Semester: Earth Day Celebration at Victory Park**
Bear Creek students are also required to put in additional two hours of community outreach/education during this celebration. We will take time in class to prepare activities well suited for elementary school students. These activities will serve to educate the community kids scientific and environmental concepts and issues. Environmental Science students have learned from this class. Earth Day celebration is the third weekend of April every year.

XV. **Instructional methods and/or strategies:**
1. Lecture Presentations (Instructor/Students)
2. Laboratory Activities
3. Community Project/Services
4. Research/Presentation Project (Individual/Group)

XVI. **Assessment methods and/or tools:**
In addition to tests and research, the laboratory component will complement the classroom instruction by allowing students to learn Environmental Science concepts through experimental observation. Experiences gain from doing community service projects provide students with the opportunities to relearn and apply their knowledge through public education.

Grades will be determined every quarter by the total number of points earned from the following categories:

a. Unit Exams (Multiple Choice Questions, Short Answer, Short Essay)
b. Lab Reports
c. Summaries/Chapter Reading Assignments
d. Summaries/Scientific Films
e. Research/Presentation
f. Community Service Hours

XVII. **Context for Course: (optional)**
This course is being developed for Bear Creek’s Green Technology Academy. UC approval of this course is also being pursued.

XVIII. History of Course Development: (optional)  n/a

The information below is required by Technology Services to enter the course title and number in the system. Consult your site Registrar for help in completing this section, if necessary.

Issue Marks:  (Check all that apply)

☐ Quarter Mark Report  ☒ Semester Mark Report

Include in Honor Roll:  Weighted  Unweighted
☐ Principal’s HR  X
☐ Honor Roll  X
☐ Report Card  X

Include in GPA  Weighted  Unweighted
☐ Academic GPA  X
☐ CAL Grant  X
☐ Weighted Total GPA  X
☐ Unweighted Total GPA  X
☐ Weighted Qtr GPA  X

Include in Extract:  ☐ Yes  No

State Course Code: 

NCES Course Classification (if applicable): n/a

Course Type:  Honors

NCLB Course:  n/a

CTE Technical Preparation:  ☐ (check for Yes)

Education Service:  n/a

Independent Study Indicator:  ☐ (check for Yes)

Distance Learning:  ☐ (check for Yes)

Education Program Funding:  CPA Green Grant
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<td>Teacher Representative:</td>
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<td>Bear Creek High School</td>
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