Saint Mary’s High School

Mr. Lopez

Environmental Science

2014-2015

**Instructor:** Mr. Abraham Lopez

**Room:** 104

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**School Website:** www.stmaryhs.org

**Course Description:**

Environmental Science course is designed to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and

analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made, to evaluate the relative risks

associated with these problems, and to examine alternative and sustainable solutions for resolving and/or preventing them. This course will promote a love for learning a desire for God, self knowledge, service to others, and respect for all creation.

Topics Covered will include: Studying the Earth, Environmental Systems, Ecosystem Ecology, Global Climates and Biomes, Evolution of Biodiversity, Population and Community Ecology, The Human Population, Earth Systems, Water Resources, Land, Public and Private, Feeding the World, Non Renewable Energy, Achieving Energy Sustainability, Water Pollution, Air Pollution and Stratospheric Ozone Depletion, Waste Generation and Waste Disposal, Human Health and Environmental Risks, Conservation of Biodiversity, Global Change, Sustainability and Equity.

Students will be expected to learn through the following techniques: Lecture, Note taking, Tests, Quizzes, Laboratory Experiments Case Studies, Current Event articles and Class Discussions.

Course Purpose:

The purpose of Environmental Science is to enable the student to:

* understand and apply Environmental Science related concepts;
* organize, construct, plot and interpret graphical data;
* solve qualitative and quantitative Environmental Science related problems and derive relevant formulas;
* formulate testable hypotheses to Environmental Science related problems and develop experimental procedures to test their validity;
* write cogent and well documented laboratory reports;
* learn independently and dependently; and most importantly,

think creatively and critically.

* To develop a profound respect for God through Creation.

This course fulfills the science requirements for Saint Mary’s High School and the New Jersey State Department of Education. The class is designed to meet the individual needs of each student as he/she prepares for future educational goals and challenges.

**Prerequisite:**

Algebra I

Biology

Chemistry

**Textbook Information:**

 **REQUIRED PURCHASE FOR THE COURSE:**

 **Semester I:**

Care for Creation: A Franciscan Spirituality of the Earth

 Ilia Delio O.S.F

 ISBN : 0867168382

 St. Anthony Messenger Press

 **Semester II:**

Christian Environmental Ethics: Case Study Methods

 James B. Martin Schramm

 1570754993

Required Materials:

-A 2 or 3 in binder, preferably with a view through pocket in front (***NO SPIRAL NOTEBOOKS PLEASE***) -Text book -Enough graph filler paper to fill the binder -A ruler with centimeter markings -2 blue or black pens -2 sharpened pencils -An eraser -A package of colored pencils -Dividers (8 to 10) we will discuss what they will be labeled in the first weeks of school -2 folders (inexpensive pocket folders) -A scientific calculator (I pads and phones are **not** calculators and will not be permitted for tests, quizzes or classwork) -A graph lined composition notebook for laboratory activities/and warm up questions

N.B. It is useful to have index cards, highlighters and a flash pen in order to save any written work requested.

**Grading Policy:**

Tests and Large Projects 40 %

 Class Activities (graded) 25 %

 Quizzes and Small Projects 20 %

 Homework 10%

 Participation 5%

**Course Map:**

Students have a hard copy of the course map so they can follow what topics we are covering in the event of an extended absence. This document also functions as a study guide helping students to study what we have covered in class for regular tests as well as the midterm and final examinations. It is the students responsibility to check either the website or with the teacher for changes and updates.

**Assignment/Make Up Policy**

* + **I AM NOT INCLINED TO ACCEPT LATE WORK**. However, I do understand that emergency situations may prevent a student from turning in an assignment on time. In these emergency situations, a student may submit a daily assignment no more than 1 days late. An assignment turned in one day late may not receive credit higher than a 70%. An assignment turned in two days late may not receive credit higher than a 50. On the third day, the assignment will no longer be accepted. For major assignments, students have ample time to complete and no late work will be accepted. If there are extinuating circumstances, the student must speak to me privately and I will discuss with him/her on a one to one basis.
	+ **MISSED ASSIGNMENTS ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITY**! If you have an excused absence that keeps you from either turning in an assignment or receiving instructions for an assignment, it is your duty to talk to me about the assignment as soon as you return. You may also email.
	+ **MAKE UP WORK** is designated for students who have excused absences. If you are absent and it is excused, you must speak to me about any make up work *the day you return*. **You will have only as many days as you were out to submit the assigned work.**  I am available during tutoring hours to discuss assignments missed. Please see me privately to discuss your assignments. Otherwise, there will be no opportunity to make up assignments not turned in on time.

**Plagiarism/Cheating**

Please read carefully and sign, along with your parents, the attached consent form regarding academic integrity. Plagiarism and/or cheating will not be tolerated. There are severe consequences for those involved with academic dishonesty.

**Blogs**

All students will have the ability to check assignments, test dates, and projects to be done during the week in my blog.

Homework and Graded assignments:

* All work submitted for evaluation should have the appropriate heading in the upper left hand corner of the paper as follows:

 Name:

 Class: Environmental Science Period:

 Date: *(the due date only please)*

 Assignment: *(Please provide a brief description of assignment and include page numbers).*

* All homework submitted should be neat and complete. Homework must be written on loose leaf or typing paper only. Typed assignments are preferred, however neatly written assignments are acceptable.
* Each homework assignment should be done on a separate sheet of paper.

Quizzes

* Quizzes can be either announced or unannounced. It is the STUDENTS RESPONSIBILITY to review completed homework and class notes in preparation.
* Makeup quizzes will be administered but must be completed within 3 days upon your return to school.

Tests:

* Tests are issued at the end of each topic. This is about every two weeks and depends on completion of a given topic.
* Tests will be based on material discussed in class. It can also include information from class notes as well as assigned readings from the textbook.
* Tests are designed to assess your ability to understand science and not to test your ability to memorize information and give it back to me.
* Tests are handed back for the student to evaluate the errors made and then collected and filed. Although if students would like to review the test in more depth they may come in after school. Tests will remain on file.
* Any errors that are questioned must be discussed within 24 hours after the scored paper is returned. Missed tests must be made up a day or two upon your return and may be administered orally.

Class Activities:

* Students will be provided with hands-on activities, worksheets, and group sessions.
* Worksheets or activity sheets will be collected and graded.

Laboratory:

* Missed laboratory experiments cannot be made up, due to the depletion of limited solutions at the time the experiment is performed in class.
* Students who missed experiments will be given hypothetical data so they may write a laboratory report.
* Students must follow all safety procedures.
* Laboratory reports are due one week from the completion of a laboratory activity.

Projects:

* Projects enrich the classroom experience and will be provided each marking period.
* Projects will count as a test grade unless otherwise specified.

Lecture/ Classroom Discussions:

* Lectures are necessary for students to obtain information.
* Students are expected to take notes and correlate the class notes to the information in the assignments . This is a vital skill for college bound students!
* It is recommended students read assignee readings before coming to class.
* Classroom discussions are an integral part of this course students are expected to be prepared to participate.

Ed-line:

* Ed-line is updated weekly.
* Missing assignments will appear in a box on the report. When the assignment is updated it will disappear from the missing assignment box.
* Students should check ed-line regularly. Missing work must be handed in before the next posted update or they will become a zero.

Food and Drink:

* Food and drink are not permitted in the classroom for any reason. Students will be asked to dispose of any food or drink brought into the classroom.

Classroom Regulations:

Because the classroom is a learning environment, certain rules and regulations need to be followed in order that each student receive a proper education. I expect that these regulations be carried out, and if not, there will be consequences.

 1. I will respect my teacher, my fellow classmates, and myself.

 2. To the best of my ability, I will arrive to each class on time and will be

 prepared to contribute and learn.

 3. I am responsible for my own learning. If I am absent for any reason, I will

 make arrangements to complete missed assignments. If I do not make

 arrangements, I will be prepared to receive a ZERO for any missed/incomplete

 assignments/tests.

4. During all laboratory activities, I will wear my protective goggles and apron,

 and conduct myself in an appropriate manner so as to avoid injury to myself

 and/or others.

 5. I will do my best to submit work that I can be proud of, and I WILL SUBMIT

 MY OWN WORK.

6. I will not take out my cell phone (or other electronic devices such as an I-pod, I – pad, digital camera, etc.) to class. If I do, I will be prepared to have it confiscated by the teacher and I will hand it over to her, when she asks for it.

7. I will not tape record or videotape any time.

 8. I have read the student handbook and will conduct myself in compliance with the school rules.

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I strive to be the best teacher I can be. I work hard to offer my charges a course that will prepare them to be good students. In return, I expect my pupils to work to the best of their ability and strive to be the best they can be.

**Blogs**

All students will have the ability to check assignments, test dates, and projects to be done during the week in my blog.

Email:

Email is a wonderful form of communication to alert the teacher to issues.

Homework *will not* be accepted by email.

\*\*\*\*The content of this syllabus is subject to change at the teacher’s discretion.

I AM HERE TO HELP YOU AND BE SUCCESSFUL IN THIS CLASS! LET US HAVE A BLESSED AND GREAT YEAR! LET US HAVE FUN.

SAINT MARY!!!!

Pray for us!