



COURSE SYLLABUS FOR INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES (2)

General Information:

Teacher: Mrs. Alicia (Ali) Pressel

Room: 280

Email: alicia.pressel@stjohns.k12.fl.us

(E-mail is my preferred means of communications. I do not have a phone in my classroom.)

Text: *Environmental Science*, Withgott 1st edition

Office Hours: Room 280, Prior to school (8:30-9:00 am) and after school. Additional hours available.

Course Description: This course is designed to develop competencies in the areas of the environmental sciences and systems; ecology; soil resources; biodiversity; conservation management; environmental health; and the global impact of agriculture; career opportunities; scientific and research concepts; biological and physical science principles; principles of leadership; and agribusiness, employability, and human relations skills. Laboratory-based activities are an integral part of this course. These include the safe use and application of appropriate technology, scientific testing and observation equipment. Laboratory investigations include scientific inquiry, research, measurement, problem solving, emerging technologies, tools and equipment, as well as, experimental quality, and safety procedures. Students will interact with materials and primary sources of data or with secondary sources of data to observe and understand the natural world. Students will develop an understanding of measurement error, and develop the skills to aggregate, interpret, and present the data and resulting conclusions. Equipment and supplies will be provided to enhance these hands-on experiences for students.

Topics Covered:

- Unit 1 – Introduction to Environmental Resources and Florida Natural History
- Unit 2 – Florida Ecosystems
- Unit 3 – Florida Hydrology
- Unit 4 – Florida Soil Resources
- Unit 5 – Florida Geology and Land Management
- Unit 6 – Florida Wetland Management
- Unit 7 – Florida Wildlife Management
- Unit 8 – Florida Forests and Dendrology

*Syllabus subject to change if necessary.

Grading for Success:

Student will receive credit for course completion in the following areas:

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|---|---------------|
| A. Study Guides (Class work, or completed as homework, if necessary) | 20 points |
| B. Labs (Class time, Conclusion questions for homework, if necessary) | 20 points |
| C. Quizzes/Tests (Points awarded depending on difficulty of Assessment) | 30-100 points |
| E. Projects/Presentations (Points awarded on effort during class, and final rubric) | 50-100 points |
| F. EcoAbstracts (2-3 EcoAbstracts per Quarter based on Current Events) | 25 points |

Materials:

1. **Field Notebook:** 3-5 Subject Spiral Notebook to be used ONLY for this class
(may be used continuously each year in the Academy)
2. **Binder** or folder within Binder to hold class handouts and papers

***You will be expected to have these materials every day you come to class.**

Make-up Work

All assignments/worksheets can be found on the class Schoology webpage. **Students should make it habitual to check their class Schoology webpage each day to access Folders and Calendar to ensure they are keeping up with assignments.** Any make-up work is the student's responsibility, I will not remind you. If you are absent for a test/quiz, it is your responsibility to set a specific date with me to make up the test/quiz within the makeup period as defined by *Creekside High School Policies and Procedures Handbook*.

POINTERS FOR SUCCESS:

Classroom Rules –

- **Be respectful to your peers, your teacher, and your classroom**
- **No Food or Drink, other than bottled water!!**
- **Always maintain proper behavior for lab safety**
- **No GUM!!**
- **No handling organisms or “class pets” without teacher permission**

Grade Reports - If a student or parent would like to see updated grades, they are to utilize the Home Access Center with their provided ID and password from Creekside High School. **Students are not to ask for their grades before or during class when lessons are taking place.**

For English Speakers of Other Languages:

The following accommodations will take place in the classroom to help assist these students in their understanding of course material: Reading Aloud, Sustained Silent Reading, Introduction, Demonstration, Repetition, Modeling, Participation, Visuals, and Cooperative Learning strategies.

Computer/Cell Phone Usage – Computers in the classroom are used regularly, but only with permission from the instructor. Students may access only school-appropriate websites based on curriculum needs.

Cell phones are ONLY used in the classroom with instructor permission, specifically for the completion of a class assignment. At completion of the activity, ALL cell phones must be turned off and put away.

*** Failure to follow these guidelines will result in school consequences as described in the [St. Johns County Code of Conduct Handbook](#).

*****PLAGIARISM POLICY– Any student caught cheating on an assignment will receive a zero for the assignment. Any student who copies another student's homework, laboratory, or classwork will not receive credit for the assignment, no exceptions.** I will not tolerate cheating, but neither should you. Have some respect for yourselves and **take pride in your work!!**

CLASS DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES from SJC Code of Conduct

First infraction.....Warning

Second Infraction..... Parent Contacted & Teacher Issued Detention

All others..... Referral to a Dean of students

Student Conduct

Students are expected to follow the guidelines as outlined in the St Johns County School District's Student Conduct Code and modified by Creekside High School Administration. The following actions will not be tolerated in this class

1. Tardiness to class
2. Head is down during class
3. Not doing work
4. Excessive talking and disturbing others
5. Exhibiting rude behavior directed toward fellow students or teachers; being argumentative

STUDENT and PARENT ACCEPTANCE ON CLASSROOM POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Student Signature Verification: My signature below verifies that I have read and intend to comply in full with all information in this document. If I cannot in good faith sign this document for any reason, I will contact the instructor immediately to discuss or clarify its contents.

Student/Parent Photo Permission: Throughout the school year, Mrs. Pressel provides opportunities for students to work with local community Business Partners on grant projects to help students develop research skills and field techniques. Mrs. Pressel is also currently working with National Geographic Education to provide educational initiatives to the Academy classroom for enhancement of the Career Academy experience. Students will have multiple opportunities to participate in new video and mapping technologies, and should be prepared for sharing their use of these technology projects to their school community.

"Permission is given to use photos, videos, and/or written stories that are related to Career Academy purposes, whether it be in St Johns School District communications or community, education, or business communications such as newsletters/newspapers, magazines, television, radio programs, etc. Permission is also given to Career Academy business partners to showcase student work with the St Johns District Career Academies and students through print and video publications."

Outdoor Field Permission (Parent Verification): During the course, it is necessary for students to conduct supervised field work outside of the classroom. Locations include on the school campus, as well as offsite on field trips with Academy Business Partners. Students will need to dress accordingly and act appropriately during these field experiences. I understand if my child is not dressed appropriately or is misbehaving during field experiences outside of the classroom, they will not participate in the learning activities and disciplinary action may be taken. I understand the teacher is focused on the safety of all students at all times, and no inappropriate behavior will be tolerated at any time. My signature below verifies that I will allow the student:

"To participate in supervised outdoor field work and agree to release and discharge the St. Johns County School District, its officers, agents, and employees exercising reasonable care within their scope of employment, from liability growing out of personal injuries and property damage resulting or occurring during the above mentioned activity, or in transit to from said activity."

Parent and Student Acknowledgement:

The signed Course Syllabus must be returned for credit. The top sheets should be kept by the student in their Field Notebook for reference. This Signature Verification page will be kept on file with the teacher and upheld as understanding by the student for rules and procedures to follow throughout the duration of the course.

I/we have read Mrs. Pressel's Syllabus and am aware of class expectations and policies.

Student Signature _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature _____ Date: _____

Parent Contact Phone Number and Email: _____

I encourage you to contact me via e-mail at any time with any of your concerns.

alicia.pressel@stjohns.k12.fl.us

**** This page will be kept on file with the teacher for field trip and student conduct verification purposes.**