

Course Outline: Earth and Space Systems

I. General Information:

- a. Earth and Space Systems
- b. Prerequisites: none
- c. Grades 9-12
- d. Course Summary
Earth and Space Systems fulfills the PGHS science graduation requirements for one year of physical science. It also counts as a lab-based physical science for the CSU system.

II. Course Content

Academic Standards Content	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
ES 1: astronomy: solar system		X		
ES2: astronomy: stars, galaxies, universe		X		
ES 3: plate tectonics	X			
ES 4: Energy in the Earth System			X	
ES 5: Solar heating as source of atmospheric and oceanic convection currents			X	
ES 6: weather, climate			X	X
ES 7: biogeochemical cycles				X
ES 8: structure and composition of the atmosphere			X	
ES 9: California Geology: natural resources, natural hazards, water supplies and issues, geological hazard maps				X
Investigation and Experimentation	X	X	X	X

III. Instructional Plan

The content for this course is presented in a variety of means. Generally, for each chapter, the students will participate in class discussion of the material (including lecture, note-taking and question-answer sessions), laboratory activities which illustrate the concepts being presented, homework assignments which will reinforce the concepts, and quizzes and tests. Students are encouraged to see the textbook come alive by observing the phenomena being studied at work in the world around them.

V. Assessment

Laboratory and in-class assignments are assessed in terms of :

how well the student followed directions

the student's understanding of the lab's or project's concepts

how well the student communicated their understanding of the concepts

completeness

Homework is assessed as to completeness, promptness in completion, and accuracy.

A chapter test is given at the end of each chapter of the book. As the chapters vary in length, the time between tests also varies. On the average, tests occur about every 2 weeks.

Grades are based on students' performance on tests and quizzes, laboratory activities and homework completion. The relative weight of each of these is as follows:

Tests/quizzes: 40%

In-class work and Laboratory Activities: 40%

Homework: 20%

At the end of each semester, the final grade is based 20% on the final exam grade and 80% on the semester grade as calculated above.

V. Text: Modern Earth Science Holt, Rinehart, Winston

This book is on loan to YOU and must be taken care of to ensure their life expectancy. Please keep it covered at all times and do not loan it to anyone!

VI. Make-up Work and Late Work

All work is expected to be turned in on time. The due dates for homework will be clearly posted on the chalkboard. In-class projects and labs are due at the end of the period unless a student has specific permission to finish at home. Work that is not turned in on time, will get a reduction in grade. No work can be turned in once the due date is over a week past. Work that is not turned in earns a score of zero.

Make Up Work If a student has an excused absence, the student has a week from his/her return to turn in missed work for full credit. After a week has passed since the student's return, the work can no longer be turned in. Frequent absences severely affect a student's ability to be successful, and make it very difficult for that student to keep up with assignments and tests. If a student has an illness which makes an extended absence unavoidable, please contact me as soon as possible. Also, please note in the student handbook that family vacations are not excused absences, and therefore, the work missed cannot be made up. Exceptions to this may be applied for through the attendance office. **It is the student's responsibility to find out what work they need to make up and to keep track of the make-up deadline. Past the deadline, the work will not be accepted. Absences are no excuse for missing work!**

If a student is absent on the day of a test, he/she will be expected to make up the test on the day they return to class. However, if a student was unaware of the test because he/she was absent the class period before the test, a week will be allowed in which to prepare for and make up the test.

VII. Extra Credit

From time to time, I may make extra credit opportunities available to the whole class. This might include things like going to a special exhibit at a museum, or watching a particular astronomical event. However, I do not allow students to do extra credit to make up for missing work. If a student has no missing work and would like an extra credit assignment to bring up their grade, I can assign extension projects. Please keep in mind, that work that is more than one week past due cannot be turned in, and becomes missing work. A student should not count on extra credit to be successful in this class!

VIII. Cheating:

Cheating includes: copying someone else's homework or allowing someone to copy yours.

Not writing out your own answers while doing lab work: **working together on a lab does not extend to copying a lab partner's written work on the lab!**

Not doing your own work on tests and quizzes.

Copying material (other than images) from the internet and presenting it as your own work instead of using it as a reference for your own work.

In general, cheating is using not doing your own work.

Using someone else's work keeps you from learning and prevents accurate assessment of your progress. I will not give a student credit for work on which he or she cheated. This can have substantial academic penalties.

IX. Required Materials:

A science binder with dividers for each chapter. This must be brought to class every time, and all notes and returned work must be hole-punched and stored in it. There should always be a supply of blank paper. The binder will be graded at the end of each quarter.

Pencils are required on all lab work and drawings, and therefore should be brought every time.

A student planner: preferably a book type, such as the one available from the ASB.

Colored pencils are occasionally used, and the student may want their own set.

X. Behavioral expectations :

I expect all students to:

1. Be on time to class with all their materials. Locker passes will not be given.
2. Avoid behavior which distracts themselves or others.
3. Treat all others with respect.
4. Follow all lab rules and directions.
5. Do their own work.
6. Keep cell phones turned off and stored for the entire class period, including in-class breaks.
7. Leave CD players in their lockers.
8. At the end of the period, remain in their seat until the class is dismissed.

On a daily basis, the first violation of these expectations will earn the student a warning, the second will cause the student to be held after class, the third will earn the student a step on the PGHS behavior contract.

XI. Bathroom Passes:

Students are expected to use the restroom before school, break, lunch, or between classes. Because emergencies occur, students will be allowed 3 bathroom passes a quarter without penalty. After that, the student will have to make up time after class for each bathroom pass.

XII. Contacting Mrs. Long: My number at school is 646-6590, extension 220. I usually do not answer the phone during class time, but if you leave a message, I will call you back as soon as I can. My e-mail is plong@pgusd.org.

It is very important that both students and parents are aware of the information in this outline. Students, please read this carefully. Parents, please also read this before you sign the following page. I make a sincere attempt to make my expectations clear at the beginning of the year so that there is no confusion at the ends of the grading period concerning missed work, extra credit, and so on. To show that you have read this course outline, please sign the following page and return to Mrs. Long.

Earth and Space Systems
Course Content Acknowledgement

Student Name _____

Student Signature _____

Date _____

Parent Name _____

Parent Signature _____ Date
