

**MVLA
2024-25
COURSE INFORMATION SHEET**

Course Title: Environmental Science

School: Los Altos High School

CTE Pathway Sequence (if applicable): N/A

UC/CSU requirement: Meets A-G Requirements

Textbook and/or other learning resources: *Pearson Environmental Science*, Canvas; will also need a large notebook (8 ½ x 11”), section in a binder, charged computer, and pen/pencils

Course Description:

The goal of this **Environmental Science** course is to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Through this course students will demonstrate their ability to:

- identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made
- evaluate the relative risks associated with environmental problems, and examine alternative solutions for resolving and/or preventing them
- learn about the environment through firsthand observations and test concepts and principles that are introduced in the classroom
- explore specific problems with a depth not easily achieved otherwise, and gain an awareness of the importance of confounding variables that exist in the “real world”
- engage in dialogue and research with classmates to build scientific literacy and laboratory skills

Course Outline/Units of Study/CTE Industry Standards(If applicable to your course):

Please see above.

Course Outline/Units of Study:

We will learn about plants & photosynthesis, ecosystems, biodiversity, populations in ecosystems, human populations, the solid earth, the atmosphere and climate, impacts of land and water use for crops, impacts of land and water use for meat, solutions for land and water use, energy, resources, consumption, air, land, and aquatic pollution, and global change.

Assessment and Grading ([BP 5121](#) / [AR 5121](#)): To ensure that every student has an equal opportunity to demonstrate their learning, the course instructors implement aligned grading practices and common assessments with the same frequency.

1. **Grading categories and their percentage weights:** Weight of assignments and/or components of the grade is approximately:
 - o 30%: “Mild”-these are introductory and/or daily assignments for topics
 - o 10%: “Medium” - these assignments put into practise what you’re learning
 - o 10%: “Spicy” - these assignments take it to a whole new level
 - o 40%: Skill Checks, Quizzes, & Tests - you will have frequent quizzes and must achieve 80% or higher on each quiz; retakes are available as needed
 - o 10%: Final exam or project

2. Achievement evidence collected within each grading category:

Students will be informed of the aligned quantity, weight, and due dates of assignments/assessments

in each grading category as much in advance as possible. Classwork, homework, tests, quizzes, as well as participation will all contribute to the overall grade earned by the student.

3. Grading scales:

A = 100%-90% C = 79%-70%
B = 89%-80 D = 69%-60 F = 59% and below

4. Homework/outside of class practices ([AR 6154](#)):

Nightly homework is work that was not completed within the class period in order for you to keep on pace with the class. However, homework may also include reading, taking notes, worksheets, lab reports, researching topics online, and/or reviewing for tests. Homework is expected to be completed on time and to the best of your ability.

5. Excused absence make up practices ([Education Code 48205\(b\)](#)):

When absent, it is YOUR responsibility to find out what you missed from the teacher or fellow student. So use the “**Ask 3, then me**” approach to learning about what you miss or what is coming up in class. Check Canvas and ask at least two of your fellow students about what you missed. If you’re uncertain about the work, then email your teacher for more information. Make-up exams (for excused absences only) will be given in class on the day that you return or during ACT time on Wednesdays and Fridays of each week. If you are absent the day before a test and miss the classroom review, you will still be required to take the test when you return. Assignments (e.g. homework, lab reports, etc.) will be due on the teacher’s specified day and must be ready to pass in when the tardy bell rings. Work turned in after that will receive late credit. There are no excuses (finishing last question, putting name on it, etc.). Assignments due on the day of an absence are required to be submitted the same day the student returns to the class.

Students should **NOT** miss lab days. Lab experiments take time to set up and to do, therefore if you are absent, even if it is excused, you may not be able to make it up. You are still responsible for the material covered in the lab. If you have a doctor or dentist appointment on block days, change it. These appointments are made months in advance and you know your schedule. Students who fail to show up for a make-up test or lab will not have the opportunity to make it up again and will earn a score of zero.

6. Academic integrity violation practices ([LAHS Academic Integrity Policy](#)):

An “unexcused absence” is an absence in excess of a 30-minute period occurring in a given class. Students may not exceed 14 unexcused absences across their entire schedule. A full day, unexcused absence counts as 5, 6 or 7 absences depending on how many classes a student carries toward the total of 14. On the 15th unexcused absence, students may be referred to an alternative educational program/site pursuant to the District’s involuntary transfer policy (AR/OP 5113) The Board expects that students will not cheat, lie, plagiarize or commit other acts of academic dishonesty. Examples of cheating include: anyone who copies another’s work or turns in someone else’s ideas as his or her own, collaboration with another student or students could be considered cheating if students are expected to complete an assignment independently, copying homework, allowing someone else to copy your work, plagiarism, copying or allowing others to copy from another’s exam, improperly obtaining and/or using tests, questions, or answer keys, using unauthorized notes/materials or electronic equipment (calculators, cell phones, etc.), with greater access to the Internet and electronic sources, students need to be very clear about their responsibilities in using these tools with integrity. Check with your teachers if you are unsure or unclear about his/her expectations regarding the use of the Internet. Students **caught cheating will earn a score of zero**, denoted by a “V” in the gradebook.

7. Late work practices:

Your teachers appreciate receiving your work in a timely manner in order to grade and provide feedback. However, we understand that sometimes life gets challenging and work is not completed on time. All late/missing work must be **submitted by the end of each unit**. All timelines for each unit

are clearly posted in Canvas and on the student tracker.

8. Revision practices:

Opportunities for revision or retakes for tests or quizzes will be provided at the teacher's discretion in alignment with the opportunities provided by the entire course team.

9. Additional grading practices:

Grade Book Update Policy: grades will be posted every 2-3 weeks on the Student Information System (SIS). Please allow some time for the instructor to process lab reports and exams before inquiring about student performance.

10. LMS Used:

Canvas

Instructors' email addresses:

Ms. Hambrick:

linda.hambrick@mvla.net

Room 706

Additional information:

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS AND RULES

1. Each student must maintain and bring to class daily all required materials - which at minimum is your science notebook (8 ½ x11" size), computer, and a pencil or pen.
2. Only one bathroom break per day, maximum 5 minutes.
3. Always demonstrate **respect** for your classmates, teacher, and yourself. Our classroom is a place where people work together towards a common goal in an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect. As young adults, you know what behaviors are appropriate in such a setting. Listen to each other carefully and speak when it is your turn. Also, learn each other's names!
4. Be responsible for keeping your work area clean. If you find or create a mess at your desk (or write on it) or in lab areas, clean and straighten it completely before you leave. Lab equipment given to you at the start of an activity is clean; it is expected to be returned in the same way. Please be careful with all laboratory equipment and class materials (including your textbook). If you are careless with the equipment you may be charged for it.
5. All rules from the student handbook apply in class (dress code, no electronic devices, cheating, etc). Know these rules!
6. Electronic devices will be used regularly for classroom purposes. Stay focused and on the task at hand.
7. **Phones should be placed in the phone pocket at the beginning of each class period** and retrieved at the end of class.
8. Remove jewelry for labs and pull back long hair.