

**MVLA
2025-26
COURSE INFORMATION SHEET**

Course Title: AP Environmental Science

School: Los Altos High School

UC/CSU requirement: Laboratory Science - D

MVLA Graduation requirement: Science

Textbook and/or other learning resources: Textbook: *Friedland and Relyea Environmental Science for AP® Third Edition*, Online Resources: [AP Classroom - College Board](#), [Albert](#)

Course Description/Student Learning Outcomes:

From the AP College Board Course and Exam Description: The AP Environmental Science course is designed to engage students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships within the natural world. The course requires that students identify and analyze natural and human-made environmental problems, evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and examine alternative solutions for resolving or preventing them. Environmental science is interdisciplinary, embracing topics from geology, biology, environmental studies, environmental science, chemistry, and geography.

Students will build content knowledge and develop science practices and skills. Content knowledge is grounded in four big ideas: energy transfer, interactions between earth systems, interactions between different species and the environment, and sustainability. Students will develop and apply the following science practices and skills: explaining environmental concepts, analyzing visual representations, analyzing text, analyzing and designing scientific research experiments, analyzing and interpreting data, performing calculations, and proposing and justifying solutions to environmental problems.

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

The course starts with an introductory unit and then follows the units of study in the [AP College Board Framework](#):

Semester 1	Semester 2
Unit 0: Intro to AP Env. Science - Climate Change Unit 1: The Living World: Ecosystems Unit 2: The Living World: Biodiversity Unit 3: Populations Unit 4: Earth Systems and Resources	Unit 5: Land and Water Use Unit 6: Energy Resources and Consumption Unit 7: Atmospheric Pollution Unit 8: Aquatic and Terrestrial Pollution Unit 9: 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:

Grading Category	Percent of Grade
Unit Exams and Cumulative Final Exam	50%
Lab Notebook Quizzes	20%
Assignments	30%

2. Achievement evidence collected within each grading category:

Grading Category	Achievement Evidence
Unit Exams and Cumulative Final Exam	Five unit exams and one cumulative final exam per semester. Exams will include multiple choice questions and free response (FRQ) questions. Students will be tested on both content knowledge and science practices and skills (see description above). To prepare for exams, students are encouraged to complete unit study guides and practice problems in AP Classroom and Albert.
Lab Notebook Quizzes	Four to five open-notebook quizzes based on notes, activities and labs completed in the lab notebook. To prepare for notebook quizzes, students should take adequate notes on lab background information, accurately draw and label figures and diagrams, write detailed and accurate responses to lab analysis questions, and show all work for math calculations. Students can only use their own lab notebook. Students can add additional notes by hand, but may not use any printed or photocopied materials. If a student is absent for a lab or activity completed in the lab notebook, it is their responsibility to make up the lab or activity within one week of the absence during ACT. If a student does not make up the lab or activity, they will not be adequately prepared for the notebook quiz.
Assignments	Assignments include lab reports, case studies, projects, simulations, notes, readings, research, study guides and practice questions/progress checks. Point values for each assignment will vary based on the demands of the assignment. Grades on assignments will be determined using rubrics. Students are encouraged to get help and feedback before due dates.

3. Grading scales:

A+ = 100 - 97%	A = 96.99 - 93%	A- = 92.99 - 90%
B+ = 89.99 - 87%	B = 86.99 - 83%	B- = 82.99 - 80%
C+ = 79.99 - 77%	C = 76.99 - 73%	C- = 72.99 - 70%
D+ = 69.99 - 67%	D = 66.99 - 63%	D- = 62.99 - 60%
F = 59.99 % and below		

- Homework/outside of class practices ([AR 6154](#)): AP courses have higher homework loads and require studying outside of class. Students in AP courses should expect to spend up to 4-5 hours per week outside of class studying, reading and working on assignments and practice problems. Time is given in class to work on most assignments, so students are encouraged to maximize the use of class time in order to minimize homework. In order to perform well on exams and quizzes, students will need to study outside of class. Students are encouraged to come to ACT, form study groups and utilize the tutorial center.
- Excused absence make-up practices ([Education Code 48205\(b\)](#)): Students are responsible for finding out what they missed (see Canvas weekly agenda and/or contact your teacher) and for making arrangements to make up labs, activities and exams. Labs, activities and exams must be made up within one week of the absence during ACT or by appointment. Students will have the same number of days that they are absent to submit assignments before they are considered late. Students who participate in athletics and who have the class in the afternoon are still responsible for completing labs/activities and should plan on attending ACT once a week during their athletic season.
- Academic integrity violation practices ([LAHS Academic Integrity Policy](#) / [MVHS Academic Integrity Policy](#)): Violations of academic integrity will be dealt with in a manner consistent with the LAHS Academic Integrity Policy. Students caught violating the policy will earn a score of zero on the assessment and will not have an opportunity to redo the assessment. The violation will also be reported to the student's assistant principal. Examples of violations include but are not limited to: copying another student's work and submitting it as your own, using AI to complete your work, copying and pasting information directly from the internet, looking up information and answers during exams, copying exam answers, and discussing exam questions/answers with others. When working with lab partners or groups, only data may be shared. All other parts of the assignment (answers, tables, graphs, conclusions, etc.) must be original. Students must submit their own copy of the assignment unless the directions clearly state that the assignment is a partner or group assignment. If a student submits work that is not original, it will be considered a violation of the academic integrity policy and the consequences discussed above will apply.
- Late work practices: Assignments are designed to help students prepare for exams, so students are

encouraged to complete all unit assignments on time and before the unit exam. Late penalties will apply to assignments submitted after due dates. A 20% penalty will apply to assignments submitted after the due date and before the end of the unit (the day of the unit test). A 50% penalty will apply to assignments submitted after the end of the unit and before the end of the quarter. Assignments will not be accepted after the quarter ends (For example, all Quarter 1 assignments must be submitted before the end of Quarter 1).

8. Revision practices: Revisions and retakes are usually not an option. There may be some exceptions on a case by case basis.
9. Extra credit practices: Extra credit is not available.
10. Additional grading practices:
11. LMS Used: Canvas

Instructors' email addresses:

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Additional information: