



## **Environmental Science / Biology Syllabus 2025-2026 Academic Year**

**Teacher:** Cole Freshour

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### **Course Description:**

Welcome to Environmental Science/Biology! This course will explore fundamental concepts in both environmental science and biology, fostering an understanding of the natural world and our impact on it. We will cover a range of topics including ecosystems, biodiversity, human population dynamics, cell biology, genetics, and evolution, integrating ecological principles with biological processes. Through a combination of lectures, discussions, labs, and projects, students will develop critical thinking skills and a deeper appreciation for the interconnectedness of life on Earth.

**Class Materials:** Miller & Levine Experience Biology/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Environmental Science

### **Learning Objectives:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand basic ecological principles and their application to environmental issues.
- Describe the structure and function of living organisms at various levels of organization.
- Analyze the impact of human activities on the environment.
- Apply scientific methods to investigate biological and environmental phenomena.
- Communicate scientific information effectively.

**Grading Policy:**

Grades will be accumulated as points throughout the semester. Your overall grade will be determined by the total points earned divided by the total possible points.

**Grading Scale:**

- A: 100 - 90%
- B: 89 - 80%
- C: 79 - 70%
- D: 69 - 60%
- F: 59 - 0%

**Point Breakdown (Examples):**

- Daily Work: 10 points
- Quizzes: 25 points
- Tests: 100 points
- Projects: 200-250 points (Points for individual projects will be specified when assigned.)

**Classroom Expectations & Communication:**

- **Communication Devices:** All communication devices (e.g., cell phones, smartwatches) must be stored away and turned off during class time, in accordance with school board and state policy. Devices found in use will be subject to school disciplinary actions.
- **Respectful Environment:** Students are expected to treat the teacher and their peers with respect at all times. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.
- **Participation:** Active participation in discussions, labs, and activities is encouraged and will contribute to your understanding and success in the course.
- **Preparedness:** Come to class prepared with necessary materials (notebook, pen/pencil, etc.).
- **Late Work:** Late work is to be turned in before the end of the grading period

**Classroom Rules Regarding Food and Drink:**

- Students are permitted to eat and drink within the classroom.
- **Important Exception:** Eating and drinking will **not** be permitted on lab days. Students will be informed in advance when a lab day is scheduled.

**Academic Integrity:**

All work submitted in this class must be your own. Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated and will result in a zero for the assignment and potential disciplinary action as outlined in the student handbook.

**Support & Resources:**

If you are struggling with the material, please do not hesitate to reach out! I am available for extra help and can be reached via email at [freshourc1@cocke.k12.tn.us](mailto:freshourc1@cocke.k12.tn.us). We can schedule a time to meet and discuss any questions or concerns you may have.