



## Advanced Earth Science: 2016-2017

Turner Ashby: Department of Science  
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Class Website: [www.lwhittakertahs.weebly.com](http://www.lwhittakertahs.weebly.com)

### Expectations and Guidelines

#### Goals of the Class:

The main goal for this class is for students to learn more about our planet as well as the driving forces of nature that dictate its behaviors. In addition, the class is designed to prepare students for the end of year Standards of Learning exam as well as future laboratory science classes by emphasizing problem solving, critical thinking, and communication in scientific fields.

#### General Expectations:

**Be Respectful** – Be respectful and courteous. I expect behavior becoming of advanced high school students during class. This includes respect for the classroom and equipment used.

**Be There** – Be in class on time. In addition, be mentally prepared for class. Tardies will be counted according to Turner Ashby's tardy policy.

**Be Prepared** – Be ready with homework and assignments. Be good stewards of your time outside of the classroom. Make sure you ask for help if needed.

**Be Curious** – Be ready to learn something! Allow yourself the freedom to be curious and ask questions!

#### Topics Covered:

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> Nine Weeks:</b> | Nature of Science, Sun, Earth, and Moon Systems, Matter, Climate and Atmosphere, Weather         |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Nine Weeks:</b> | Oceanography, Mapping, Minerals, Rocks   |
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Nine Weeks:</b> | Weathering, Erosion, and Soil, Surface and Groundwater Systems, Plate Tectonics, Earth's History |
| <b>4<sup>th</sup> Nine Weeks:</b> | Geology of Virginia, Earth's Resources, Outer Space, and SOL Review                              |

#### Virginia SOL Standards for Earth Science:

Can be found on the Virginia Department of Education's website:  
[http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards\\_docs/science/](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/science/)

## Grading for Earth Science:

What will be done as a part of our Advanced Earth Science Class:

- **Grading** – Total points system on a 10 – point scale.
- **Mid-Terms and Finals** - A mid-term exam, counting as 14% of the semester grade, will be given at the end of the second nine weeks. A final will be given at the end of the course for any student who does not exempt by passing the SOL exam.
- **Other Components:**
  - Study guides (~25 pts)                      To assist students in taking notes on the material so we can have time to further explore and apply concepts in class
  - Worksheets (varies)                      Done each chapter to gain individual practice with material
  - Labs (10-25 pts each)                      1-3 /chapter
  - Quizzes (10-25 pts)                      Will vary as either spontaneous or announced, usually 1 per chapter
  - Tests (~100 pts)                      1/ unit
  - Projects (~100 pts)                      1/ nine weeks
  - Article reviews (~75 pts)                      1/ nine weeks

*\*More information on article reviews and projects to follow*

## Earth Science Guidelines for Success:

**Doing Required Work** – Textbook reading and assigned homework ARE meant to prepare students for the class and end of year SOL and should not be seen as optional or busy work.

**Organization** – Notebooks, folders, or three-ring binders dedicated to Earth Science can help students stay organized. Class materials will also be posted daily to my class website.

**Vocabulary** – For students who struggle with memorization, flashcards, quizlet, or other memory aids can prove helpful in mastering the large amount of vocabulary in Earth Science.

**Extra Help/Tutoring** – Please come talk to me if you need more help! The best way to get help is to set up an appointment either by email or talking with me directly.

**Extra Credit** – Extra credit is given along the way each nine weeks. Extra credit points can add up quickly and give students an extra boost.

## Class Electronics Policy:

**Cell Phones in Class** – I do NOT allow cell phones to be used in class, unless for a specific educational purpose with my permission. Cell phones should be off and put away when you enter the classroom.

### Violations

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense: A verbal warning from me
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: I take the phone and hold it until the end of the day
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense: I take the phone and give it to the administrators.

**Class Violations** – If cell phones become a class-wide hindrance to the learning environment, I will ask that cell phones be turned in at the beginning of class and picked up at the end.

## Make-Up Work:

**Sick** - Following Turner Ashby's guidelines, if you are absent, you have one odd/even day for each day missed to make up material covered in class.

- You are responsible for catching up on examples and notes taken in class.
- You **MUST** make up any lab that is missed.
- **Website** – Homework assignments as well as material covered in class will be posted each day to my class website. Use this resource first to get caught up.

**Athletics/Extra-curriculars** - If you miss class due to an athletic or extracurricular event – let me know in advance. If work is due that day, make sure you get it to me before you leave.

**Late Work** – Work that is not ready to be turned in at the time I collect it is considered late. Late work receives a 10% deduction *per odd/even-day cycle*.

**Anything more than one week past the due date will not be accepted without making prior arrangements.**

## Signature Agreement:

By signing this, you acknowledge that you have thoroughly read the class syllabus as well as the Honor Code and agree to abide by the class policies and rules presented.

Teacher Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Advance Earth Science: Mrs. Whittaker**

**Signature Agreement:**

By signing this, you acknowledge that you have thoroughly read the class syllabus as well as the Honor Code and agree to abide by the class policies and rules presented.

Teacher Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_