

Course Outline 8th Grade Earth Science

Course Goal:

The goal of this course is to prepare you for the Earth Science Regents test in June. I would hope that when you walk away from our class that it was a positive experience for you. I only ask that you give me your best, as I will give you mine. Only you can decide what your best is, however hold in mind that I will demand a high standard from you along the way.

I. Course outline

A. The Physical Setting: *Earth Science*

1. 3 courses in science are required for graduation for **ALL** students entering grade 9 in 2001 or after.
{**3, 2, 1** means: 3 science courses, two of them Regents exam courses, and you must pass at least one of those two Regents exams (65)}
 - a) Two of the three science courses must be Regents science courses that culminate with a New York State Regents Exam. One of these two must be The Living Environment (Regents Biology), which is offered primarily at the 10th grade level. The other must be selected from Regents Earth Science, Chemistry, or Physics, which make up the Physical Setting group.
 - b) Most school districts in New York State offer **The Physical Setting: *Earth Science*** primarily at the 9th grade year, since it does not require the higher level math skills of some of the other Regents science courses.
 - c) The third science course can be selected from the Physical Setting group of Regents science courses, or may be a science elective offered by the school.

2. Course material is set by New York State

- a) 14 topics
- b) **Reference Table** is provided... used with all quizzes and tests. Bring it to class **EVERY DAY**.
- c) Will use, **A BREIF REVIEW IN EARTH SCIENCE** as a text. Students may also purchase their own copy directly from Prentice-Hall at current cost. (1-800-848-9500)
 - 1) all material covered well
 - 2) excellent source of Regents-style questions
 - 3) **Students are responsible for textbooks issued to them at the beginning of the year!**

B. Lab requirement

1. Minimum of 1,200 minutes required by New York State (in addition to regular classroom instruction) held every other day.
2. Satisfactory lab completion **required** in order to take the Regents exam in June (Attendance policy **does** include attendance in science lab.)

3. Completed lab write-ups are saved for one full year, to be made available upon request by the State Education Department Board of Regents

C. Lab Performance Test

1. Based on your ability to do 3 rather involved Earth Science lab procedures
2. Counts as 15% of the Regents Earth Science exam in June

II. Daily class work

A. **Notes are to be taken from the outline handed out.**
(NOT to be copied *during* class, though)

B. Small group work/discussion ... must be done in a serious manner

C. Materials needed in class with you **EVERY DAY**...

1. notebook for the year
2. a two-pocket folder
3. pencil or pen
4. **EARTH SCIENCE REFERENCE TABLES (*must* have)**

In order to be prepared, students are expected to bring to class items 1-4 from the list above and to dress appropriately.

D. For the benefit of all learners in the room, **PROPER CLASS BEHAVIOR** must be displayed by students at all times.

III. Grading

A. A Student's grade will be based on:

1. **UNIT TESTS** - several per 10-weeks
2. **Outline notes** – checked before each unit test
3. **Quizzes** - about 1 or 2 per week
4. **Homework** - usually 1 assignment per week
5. **Science project** - 1 per year (**MARCH 2nd, 2010**), with weighting of 2 unit tests for that 10-week marking period
6. **Extra credit report** - *optional* for students wishing to do one, limit one per 10-weeks, due no later than the Friday before the end of the 10-week marking period, worth 1 unit test grade
7. **Labs** - satisfaction completion of the lab (non-graded) requirement is ***determined solely by the lab instructor.***

B. Grades are calculated with the following weights

20%	Homework
25%	Quizzes
15%	Notes
40%	Tests
100%	Total

I reserve the right to change the weight of any assignment or in-class activity.

IV. **Class-work Participation and Attitude:**

Effort counts! In order to be successful in life you must come prepared. Bring your required class materials.

Show a positive attitude. A positive attitude from the outside looks like someone who is paying attention, who is not complaining or whining, and is motivated to do his or her best.

Class work is expected. When asked, work with a partner, or a group, or on your own. Participate by raising your hand to ask questions or answer a question.

V. **Homework:**

All assignments are due at the beginning of the class, or a zero grade results.

Students may receive a maximum of 70% of the earned grade when the assignment is turned in by the start of the next class or block; otherwise, the zero grade must remain.

When legally absent, students are responsible for collecting missed assignments upon their return. After 5 school days, NO owed work will be accepted including tests, quizzes, or other assignments.

I require you to stay 13th in order to make up owed work.

Homework is given to reinforce the material we are learning and studying. It is your responsibility to do your homework so that you succeed on assessments.

VI. **Music Lessons:**

You are responsible for handing in all work the day it is due. Going to lessons is not an excuse for handing in work late or for not taking a quiz or test.

If you have a lesson during my class, you must sign out on the lesson sign out sheet in the front of the room and turn in your work before homeroom that day or at the beginning of the period. You may not attend a lesson if a quiz or test is scheduled.

You must stay 13th to make up missed class-work.

If you go to a lesson without permission on the day of a quiz or test, you will receive a zero.

VII. **Class Rules:**

I have four basic rules that must be followed in class:

- 1. When I or anyone else is talking - you are not**
- 2. The stated rule above and the school rules are adhered to without question**
- 3. Respect others and their opinions, even if you do not agree with them**
- 4. No tipping back in chairs**