

# EARTH SCIENCE SYLLABUS 2009-2010

## I. ASSIGNMENTS AND HOMEWORK

- You are expected to read the appropriate chapter in the text that corresponds to the lectures and assignments.
- There will be homework assignments every week, get used to it.
- Assignments and labs will make up about 40 % of the total grade every quarter, it is imperative that you complete all work.
- When an assignment is completed turn it in, once graded it will be returned and should be placed in your binder.
- Turning in late work is discouraged and will result in a reduction of the grade, but it is better to take a reduced grade than a zero.
- If you are absent 1 day you have 2 days to make up the work or risk taking a zero - it is your responsibility to check with the instructor to find out what you missed.

## II. QUIZZES / TESTS / EXAMS

- Expect a quiz every Thursday or Friday unless otherwise indicated. Quizzes range in value from 40 to 100 points and can have a major impact on your grade throughout each quarter.
- There will be a test after every chapter consisting of multiple-choice, matching, true/false, completion, and essays - always be prepared by studying the night before the test.
- There will be a comprehensive exam (i.e. tested over everything) at the end of each semester that can greatly influence your grade. These are generally in the form of multiple-choice and essays.

## III. NOTES AND NOTEBOOKS

- The taking of notes in the class is required; you will not have a decent grade if you don't.
- All notes should be maintained in either a binder or a spiral notebook. Date the notes for reference.
- All returned assignments, labs, info sheets, tests, and other miscellaneous papers should be kept and organized in a 3-ring binder.
- The binder and spiral notebook will be picked up and graded periodically.
- **Purpose of a notebook**
  1. Keeps everything organized and in order for referral and study.
  2. Helps in studying for tests and exams.
  3. Provides a method for which your parents can check your work.
  4. Provides proof that you completed an assignment in case of a grading error.

## IV. EXTRA CREDIT

A maximum of 30 extra credit points can be attained for each quarter through the following:

1. Turn in current newspaper clippings about the Earth, space, or the environment. Write your name on it and the date of the newspaper article and place it on my desk. (2 points each)
2. Make a poster about earth science, astronomy or the environment. (10 points each)
3. Create an 8-10 line poem about the earth sciences. Must be typed. (5 points each)
4. Write a 1-page report over any topic covered in class. (5 points per side of paper)
5. Participate in special projects: PSU Science Competition Day, Iola Scholars' Bowl Meet

## V. GRADES/GRADING SCALE

- I try to keep careful records of all grades but sometimes errors occur. Periodically grades will be copied for you to check for accuracy.
- Keep all graded assignments in your notebook to help verify a grade.
- Quarter grades are calculated by dividing your points by the number of points possible.  
Example: Your points = 850 Possible points = 1280;  $850/1280 = .664$  or 66.4% D  
GRADING SCALE: 100-90%=A 89-80%=B 79-70%=C 69-60%=D 59-0%=F

## VI. RESEARCH ASSIGNMENTS

- **Magazine Article Summaries (50 Points):** There will be 2 summaries to be completed per quarter. This involves reading a magazine article over science and writing a 1-page summary over it.  
**The due dates on the syllabus are the final dates due for blue/gold-will not be accepted late except for extraordinary reasons. These summaries can be turned in anytime before the final date.**
- **In-class Essay (100-200 points):** Research a topic of your choice (from the list) and be prepared to write a 2-3 page essay during class over the topic.
- **PowerPoint Research Report (100-200 points):** Research a topic of choice and prepare a presentation with title page, visuals, information, data, and bibliography. This will be a standup presentation.
- **Mini-Reports (75-100 points):** 1-2 page typed or written reports including images over a variety of research topics.

## VII. CLASSROOM RULES

1. Be prepared to begin class when the bell sounds.
2. Bring class materials every day (notebook, paper, textbook, writing utensil)
3. Be attentive during class, follow directions, and take good readable class notes.
4. No pop, candy, or food inside the classroom.
5. NO TALKING when I am lecturing, answering a question, or discussing a topic.
6. Have a question? Raise your hand or ask one on one
7. All students are expected to participate in the class
8. Have a personal problem that is affecting your performance? Inform me
9. Socialize outside of class not during instructional time.
10. Cell phones will be confiscated if heard or seen during class.

## VIII. KEYS TO SUCCESS IN THE COURSE

- Pay attention in class and stay involved in the subject material.
- Take notes, study the notes, and maintain an organized notebook.
- Study for all tests, quizzes and exams.
- Come to class prepared, ready to learn and work.
- Complete ALL homework assignments, labs, and research assignments.
- Read the textbook.
- Turn in extra credit for additional points, in case of a borderline grade.
- Communicate with me if you do not understand the material or assignments.
- Utilize seminar time

## **IX. SCHEDULE OF RESEARCH ASSIGNMENTS AND MISCELLANEOUS DATES**

### **FIRST QUARTER:**

Magazine Article Summary #1 Due September 10/11

Magazine Article Summary #2 Due October 8/9

End of First Quarter October 16

### **SECOND QUARTER:**

Magazine Article Summary #1 Due November 12/13

**Inclass Essay December 3/4**

Magazine Article Summary #2 Due December 10/11

Mid-Term Exam December 17/18

End of First Semester December 18

### **THIRD QUARTER:**

Magazine Article Summary #1 Due January 21/22

Magazine Article Summary #2 Due February 25/26

End of Third Quarter March 5

### **FOURTH QUARTER:**

Magazine Article Summary #1 Due April 8/9

**Research Project: Power Point Presentations Due Friday April 16**

Magazine Article Summary #2 Due May 6/7

Final Exam May 20/21

Last Day of School May 21

## X. RESEARCH TOPICS

Listed below are a number of possible research topics for the formal research report and oral presentation. If you have an idea for a research topic that is not on the list please have it approved.

ACID RAIN	DINOSAUR EXTINCTION	PALEONTOLOGY
GREENHOUSE EFFECT	AURORAS	RECYCLING
EARTHQUAKES	PLANET TERRA-FORMING	VOLCANOES
SOLAR ENERGY	NUCLEAR ENERGY	WIND ENERGY
HAZARDOUS WASTE	GEO THERMAL ENERGY	FOSSIL FUELS
KANSAS GEOLOGY	NUCLEAR WAR	OZONE DEPLETION
FUSION ENERGY	TORNADOES	HURRICANES
EXTINCTION	GROUND WATER	ICE AGES
GLACIERS	RAINFOREST DESTRUCTION	OVERPOPULATION
HABITAT DESTRUCTION	LANDFILLS/GARBAGE	SUN
N.A.S.A.	EVOLUTION vs. CREATIONISM	HUMAN EVOLUTION
METEOROLOGY	E.T. IMPACT WITH EARTH	ROCKETRY
SPACE PROBES	SPACE SHUTTLE	PLANETS
TELESCOPES	COMETS	STARS
EXTRATERRESTRIAL LIFE	ORIGIN OF THE UNIVERSE	THUNDERSTORMS
FUTURE OF SPACE EXPLORATION	FAMOUS SCIENTIST	
FUTURE OF PLANET EARTH	RECENT DISCOVERIES IN SCIENCE	

