**Honors and Regular Earth/Environmental Science**

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Website: <http://mrbischoffscience1718.weebly.com>

My email is fed directly to my cell phone, so response can be relatively quick, depending upon the hour of the request…I usually turn it off somewhere between 10-1030pm, back on 530-6am, so the question sent at 230am will not typically have an answer until later that morning. I will respond on weekends, but, when on the water, my phone is locked in a dry-box and is usually ignored during that time (bet on this!).

Telephone number available upon request. All students (parents optional) should sign on to ***Remind,*** as this is how quick updates, many assignments, and general information will disseminate. School email, as well as my website, may also see frequent use so the successful student will need to be vigilantly checking these on a regular basis.

**Text:** ***Earth Science***, Tarbuck & Lutgens, 2011

Ancillary materials will be discussed in class. Many will appear as files or urls on website, so this is another reason for regular (once or twice daily) visits to website are crucial, as I may or may not mention these in class.

**Course Description:** Earth/Environmental Science is an interesting course changing our perspective on how we see our world, looking for reasons and issues with the macroscopic interactions of matter concerning our planet and beyond. It is a course involving the stretching of our thinking, followed by some mathematics to support our understanding.

**The value of taking an Earth Science course:**

* For personal satisfaction and the challenge!
* Because you love science!
* Because taking these may be what gets you accepted into your university of choice when someone else does not…it distinguishes you from the pack.
* To improve your understanding of the physical universe, and our place in it.

**Course Standards:** The NC standard course of study is our roadmap, utilizing the unpacked standards, but we always work at adding more where we can, as it both enriches the topic and increases its relevance to our daily lives. Site: <http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/docs/curriculum/science/scos/support-tools/unpacking/science/earth.pdf>

**Leadership:** students will be expected to work together effectively in small groups for completion of their lab work; instructor observation of this will be reflected in some of the lab grading.

**Materials needed:**

* Loose-leaf binder (D-ring favored), as there will be many handouts…these will need to be retained but not carried around over the course of the year
* Pens: blue ink required. The instructor read a study this summer indicating that taking notes/writing in blue ink specifically helped recall. We will see how well that works.
* Other colored pens, highlighters, etc. to annotate notes…this helps greatly for clarity in details, especially as we move electrons around
* Other items as they arise.

**Expectations**: as an expansion from my general webpage, these are much more important for success in the classroom:

* Regular attendance. While this might seem obvious, there is usually someone who thinks that this is optional. All conversations on our topics are likely to generate some illumination for participants, so “being here” is a large part of progress.
* Work. Another obvious point. Due when expected, make-up work should also be timely. We will discuss in class, but do not ever think that class stopped because you were absent. Late work will be accepted at the instructor’s discretion, and any credit is optional at that point (expect 0’s).
* Readings should be complete prior to class, so that discussions and lab work can commence without wasted effort. You are insulting your classmates’ efforts if you do this.
* Group work does not mean one person does it all. I do watch and ask as I see groups work.
* Ask questions! (As per website) I am not clairvoyant…I do not want to be able to read your minds! Let me know if something is unclear. If it is something that requires us to have a discussion, email/text/call.

**Cheating and Plagiarism:** Remember the Consequences Contract. Plagiarism is an academic crime. If I catch someone cheating, local administration will confirm severity of censure.

**Make-up Work**: it is the student’s responsibility to contact the teacher before or after class to discuss any missed materials. It is preferred for this to take place prior to the absence if it is planned.

**Grading Policy:** grades will be calculated using the following weighting:

* Tests: 60%
* Quizzes: 25%
* Lab work: 15%

**Homework**: Mandatory, **due at beginning of class on date due**, and will be located in one of the above categories at the discretion of the instructor. Quizzes may follow to ascertain level of both preparation and understanding on the part of the students. ***Overarching expectation, on all work of all types, is that students will do their best at all times!***

**Suggestions for success:**

* Focus in class—nothing beats paying attention to all
* As in college, note where your grade comes from…do well
* All sciences are inherently vocabulary rich…know your language
* Read! Read! Read!
* Use all resources given
* Be organized
* Pre-read all labs…know what you need to be safe, and what to be on the lookout for as the lab progresses