

Earth Science – 4th Period

Semester 1: Overview

Ms. Lashley

7 September 2010

Welcome back to school! I hope you had a wonderful summer and are ready to be back at school. Here's some general information to get us started.

PROPOSED CHAPTER LIST FOR SEMESTER 1 (Subject to change):

Unit 1: Earth's Surface:

Chapter 1 – Views of Earth Today

Chapter 2 – Minerals

Chapter 3 – Rocks

Timelines in Science: History of the Earth System

Chapter 4 – Weathering and Soil Formation

Chapter 5 – Erosion and Deposition

GRADING:

HOMework, LABORATORY INVESTIGATIONS, RESEARCH PAPERS/PRESENTATIONS, CLASSWORK (50%):

Homework assignments will be checked for accuracy and timeliness. With the exception of printed worksheets, Internet activities and special projects, all homework and classwork assignments must be completed in **your sewn-bound science notebook**. All science notebooks will be collected on Friday and may be collected at other times, as necessary. Notebooks may also be checked randomly and points will be deducted for missing assignments. Some assignments will be collected, while others will be checked during class. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that he or she understands the problems assigned and answers given on homework. All assignments must be completed by the date due for full credit.

Labs/Projects: For grading, all students will start with 100 points. Points will be taken off for poor technique, incomplete write-ups, or coming to class unprepared. Students that disobey the rules of lab safety will receive a zero for the lab in question.

Jr. Solar Sprint: All students are required to participate in a group project of designing and building a solar model car for the annual Jr. Solar Sprint competition. For grading purposes, all students will begin with 200 points for each stage of this process (Design, Build, Test, and Race Day). Points will be deducted for lack of cooperation with assigned group and among other classmates, poor participation efforts, failure to meet project deadlines, and general unpreparedness. Students that disobey the safety rules will lose 100 points per each infraction.

Two-pocket folder(s) or binder: In addition, you are required to keep all of your papers in a two-pocket folder or a binder. Please be diligent, and try to keep your papers as organized as possible. Having old handouts will make studying for tests, quizzes and exams much easier.

Research Papers/Presentations: Research papers and presentation notes must be typed double-spaced in 12 point Times New Roman (or equivalent, see me for clarification) with the following margins:

- top and bottom: 1 in.
- right and left margins: 1.25 in.

All papers and presentation notes must be submitted with a cover page which lists the paper's title, class name, date submitted, number of pages, instructor's name and the student's name. All papers must include a list of works cited, including, where applicable, the complete URL's of any web pages that were used as sources.

Printed notes must accompany all oral presentations.

Late assignments: Unexcused late work will either be penalized or unaccepted. You may encounter some difficulties with homework problems at times. This is expected. Please just let me know of these situations, and exceptions can be made.

Attendance: Attendance in all classes, labs and tests is mandatory. Late minutes will be counted, and I reserve the right to restrict bathroom access should the privilege become abused. Please see me first if you plan on missing a class, lab or test.

PREPARATION (5%)

For **every** class, you will need to bring your **science notebook, looseleaf, your science binder/folder(s), your textbook, your homework, a calculator and a writing utensil**. Each student will begin with 100 points for the quarter and each day one comes unprepared, one point will be deducted. So...get an easy "A" here, and come prepared!

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TESTS (30%)/ QUIZZES (15%):

Tests and quizzes may be composed of multiple-choice questions, fill in the blanks, matching, short answers, and short essays. On average, there will be one test per chapter, and 1-2 quizzes per chapter.

EXAM/SEMESTER AVERAGE:

Your average will be calculated using the following formula: $\frac{((Q1 \text{ Avg} + Q2 \text{ Avg}) \times 4) + \text{Exam Grade}}{9}$

Therefore, **your semester exam will be worth one-ninth or 11% of your semester average.**

All exams will be composed of multiple-choice questions, fill in the blanks, matching, short answers, and short essays. Usually, there will be one test per chapter, and approximately 1-2 quizzes per chapter. The final exam at the end of the semester will be worth 20% of your final grade.

EXTRA CREDIT/CLASS PARTICIPATION:

There *may* be some extra credit assignments given during the semester. I will also *consider* creating special extra credit assignments on a case-by-case basis *per student request*. Consideration will also be given to those students who participate actively in class discussions and activities. Being (productively) vocal in class can only HELP your grade. Thus, I strongly encourage you to come to class prepared, and participate away!

Website/Email:

Copies of syllabi and selected handouts, including this one, will be made available on the Manor School website; look for Academic Subjects/Upper School and click on the science link. The direct URL is <http://www.manorschoolstx.com/science.html#earth>. Also, links to student resources, such as online tutorials, quizzes, and video, in addition to study sheets and other goodies, may also be available online.

My email address is slashley@manorschoolstx.com; please use this sparingly. Do not rely on it for homework assistance. I will not accept assignments via email, unless prior arrangements have been made.

Final Takes:

1. In general, I will not ask you to memorize anything that I would not want to memorize. If I ask you to memorize something, it is only because I feel you will definitely need it in the future.
2. If you have any questions, at any time...ASK!
3. I encourage the formation of study groups.
4. You will get as much from this class as you put in; therefore, please DO YOUR BEST!!!