

Contemporary Issues in Science 2016-17

Syllabus



Instructor: Ms. Diane Collins

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Course Description:

The emphasis will be on real world applications and the impact of current issues in science on daily life. There is no separate lab. This course will include hands-on activities such as experiments and computer applications for research. The goal is to enable students to develop a scientific understanding of the world that will enable them to adopt an informed and responsible stance on the many pressing science issues that exist both globally and locally. Topics that may be explored include: global warming, acid rain, pollution, and basic chemistry concepts such as soaps, detergents, over-the-counter drugs, petroleum, soils and water.

Students will be graded on all that they do for this course, including 10 percent for participation. This means coming to class prepared and ready to learn, as well as appropriately participating in class discussions and activities. A large portion of the course will be project-based.

Grading Policies for Homework and Classwork:

- Late assignments will lose credit for each day late.
- All homework assignments must be turned in within two weeks of the due date or receive a grade of "F" in my gradebook.
- All assignments with scores below 80% may be corrected to earn back half credit (up to an 80%). Corrections must be *correct* and turned in within one week of being passed back. Some corrections may require additional work to show understanding.

Organization:

- I have provided a blue folder to store classwork/homework assignments and the first project. Roughly every two projects will require a new folder that you will provide. If you wish, you may use your own method of organization.
- At the end of each unit, folders should be safely stored at home.
- Students will keep a journal that I have provided and that is usually left in class.

I look forward to an eventful year of exploration into very important issues we currently face!