



Learning

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Encounters with Nature Year (cycle 3) B: Land and Energy

Crosslake Community Middle School

INSTRUCTOR

Clare Thompson

218-302-4790 (google voice)

Office Hours: 10:00 am- 2:00 pm (or by appointment)

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This environmental education class is one of a three-year cycle of the environmental/art class "Human Encounters with Nature." This syllabus is for the second semester (B) of the year-long course. The course covers environmental concepts and issues in our world today. This year the focus is on land resources and energy. In addition to learning the concepts and issues of climate change, agriculture, forests, biodiversity, mining, and energy sources, students will engage in a debate and complete a civic action project.

This course also engages students in nature through nature journaling and phenology. Students also complete art projects on environmental issues and practice sketching in their nature journals, and thus receive credit for art as well.

PREREQUISITES

None.

COURSE GOALS & OBJECTIVES

(These are for the year-long course)

- Students will spend at least 10 mindful minutes in nature each week, documenting this with a picture or nature journal entry.
- Students will complete a more directed and detailed nature journal entry once a month.
- Students will be able to identify phenological changes throughout the year; they will be able to identify basic trees, animals, plants in their sit-spot.
- Students will express their encounters with nature and environmental concepts through different art media.



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- Students will be able to explain the importance of mining, dangers of mining, and ways to sustainably obtain resources.
- Students will be able to explain the sources of energy for our modern world and the benefits and dangers of each source.
- Students will engage in a debate on alternative energy sources.
- Students will participate in an environmental civic action project.
- Students will participate in “land lab” by actively planting in their locality.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Nature journal
- Basic art supplies– paints, markers, or colored pencils, paper, other art materials as the student desires.
- Computer

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Computer
- Orientations which cover how to use EdGenuity, Google Classroom, Edpuzzle, and all the Google apps necessary for communication and completion of assignments.

TEACHER CONTACT & COMMUNICATION

Regular communication is critical to your success in this class. It is important that as soon as you have a question you cannot answer, that you reach out to me or your Learning Coach. Or, if I contact you, that you respond quickly so you can get the most out of this course..



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Feedback

I will grade assignments regularly, usually within 2 school days, and provide feedback to you on these assignments. Read through the feedback and ask clarifying questions, since I write these comments to help you improve your learning in this course.

Office hours

I will be available to answer questions and help work through assignments during the common hours posted at the top of this syllabus. This is a great time to contact me since I will usually be able to get back to you very quickly.

Additional support

If you need additional academic support beyond regular feedback and communication with me, please let me or your Learning Coach know so that we can connect you with appropriate help.

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance/Participation Policy

Attendance and participation are based on daily logins to the course and regular completion of assignments. To stay on track, you should follow the due dates for activities and assignments listed in the syllabus or learning management system. For more specific information about attendance, including excused/unexcused absences, see the Crosslake Community High School Parent/Student Course Handbook

Missing or Late Work

All work is due at the end of the semester. However, if a student waits until the last week or two to complete the coursework, it is unlikely that he or she will earn a passing grade. To help you



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plan and manage time, I have created a course schedule included in the syllabus. Missing work at the end of the semester will be counted as 0 points.

Questions

Please ask questions as soon as you have them; if you aren't clear on a concept, it is likely that others have the same question. The sooner you ask a question, the sooner I can help you!

Academic integrity

COURSE ACTIVITIES

Activity type	# in course	Points each	Total points	% of final grade
Nature Journaling				25%
Art projects				25%
Academic concepts				25%
Environmental Civic Action Project				25%
TOTAL				100%



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COURSE OUTLINE & SCHEDULE

(This is a guideline based on students starting at the beginning of the semester. Students starting later in the term will have a different schedule. Look at your course management system for the current due dates.)

Week	Start Day	Unit	Assignments Due
1 (21)	1/23/23	Mining	<input type="checkbox"/> Edpuzzles/docs <input type="checkbox"/> nature time
2 (22)	1/30/23	Energy overview/fossil fuels	<input type="checkbox"/> Edpuzzles/docs <input type="checkbox"/> nature time
3 (23)	2/7/23	Nature Journal Week	<input type="checkbox"/> nature journal entry <input type="checkbox"/> weatherguide/phenology/literature docs
4 (24)	2/13/23	Renewable energy	<input type="checkbox"/> Edpuzzles/docs <input type="checkbox"/> nature time
5 (25)	2/21/23	Nuclear energy	<input type="checkbox"/> Edpuzzles/docs <input type="checkbox"/> nature time
6 (26)	2/27/23	Energy debate preparation	<input type="checkbox"/> Position research with partner <input type="checkbox"/> nature time
7 (27)	3/7/23	Nature Journal Week	<input type="checkbox"/> nature journal entry <input type="checkbox"/> weatherguide/phenology/literature docs
8 (28)	3/13/23	Energy Debate	<input type="checkbox"/> Debate participation or Position Paper <input type="checkbox"/> nature time



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9 (29)	3/27/23	Art Project Week	<input type="checkbox"/> Project
10 (30)	4/3/23	Nature Journal Week	<input type="checkbox"/> nature journal entry <input type="checkbox"/> weatherguide/phenology/literature docs
11 (31)	4/11/23	Environmental Civic Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Choose project and begin preparations for it... not due until the end of the month.
12 (32)	4/17/23	Art Project Week	<input type="checkbox"/> Project
13 (33)	4/24/23	Environmental Civic Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Project due
14 (34)	5/2/23	Nature Journal Week	<input type="checkbox"/> nature journal entry <input type="checkbox"/> weatherguide/phenology/literature docs
15 (35)	5/8/23	Land Lab	<input type="checkbox"/> Choose project and begin preparations for it... not due until the end of the month.
16 (36)	5/15/23	Land Lab	<input type="checkbox"/> Keep working on project
17 (37)	5/22/23	Wrap-up Week	<input type="checkbox"/> Land Lab project due <input type="checkbox"/> Review of the concepts <input type="checkbox"/> Evaluation



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Supplemental Student Communication

Progress Reporting

CCHS staff will submit progress reports to the local school contact person upon completion of the student's academic term. The student and family may access regular progress reports in the online learning platform through the student gradebook anytime.

Final Grades and Submissions

Semester and final grades are submitted to the school counselor within 10 days of the end of the semester. Successfully completed CCHS courses are worth .5 semester credits; credit conversions and graduation requirements do differ between school districts. Contact your school counselor for your local district's graduation requirements and credit conversion.