



Environmental Science 1 Honors 2025-2026

Instructor: M. Cordero

Course: Environmental Science 1 Honors

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Course Meets: Alternating days-Day B

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Office Location: 3rd floor blue PK 310

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays
3:05-3:45 pm

Please review the information shared within the following link

- [2025-2026 Code of Student Conduct](#)

Course Description

Environmental Science integrates multiple areas of science, such as, biology, chemistry, and earth sciences to give students a deeper understanding of the interrelationships between humans and the environment. This course also empowers students by preparing for the Ducks Unlimited Ecology Conservation & Management Certification Test. This program focuses on ecology, management, species identification (birds and mammals) and conservation of wetlands in North America.

Course Grade

This is a year-long course and the grades are issued at the end of each semester. The grade for the first semester is issued in December and the grade for the second semester is issued in May.

Tests linked to the course

A certification test is linked to this course. Students are expected to take this test by February 2026. This will provide sufficient time for students to complete the three opportunities to pass the test before the end of the school year.

Goals & Standards

- [Environmental Science Honors Florida State Standards](#)
- Successful completion of the Ducks Unlimited Ecology Conservation & Management Certification Test (Click [HERE](#) for information about this organization.)
- Develop as citizens that can make informed decisions in maintaining the health of our global environment.



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- Develop skills in the area of scientific practices as described below.

Science and Engineering Practices*	Asking Questions and Defining Problems Developing and Using Models Planning and Carrying Out Investigations Analyzing and Interpreting Data Using Mathematics and Computational Thinking Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions Engaging in Argument from Evidence Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information
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*<https://www.nextgenscience.org/sites/default/files/resource/files/Appendix%20F%20%20Science%20and%20Engineering%20Practices%20in%20the%20NGSS%20-%20FINAL%20060513.pdf>

Course Schedule*

Semester 1 Units	Semester 2 Units
Ducks Unlimited Curriculum Module 1. Ecological Principles Module 2. Habitats Conservation & Management Module 3. Forests: Conservation & Management Module 4. Grasslands: Conservation & Management Module 5. Wetlands: Conservation & Management Module 6. Wetlands: Ecosystems Goods & Services Module 7. Population Ecology Module 8. Wildlife Management Module 9. Species Identification Module 10. Waterfowl Ecology	Ducks Unlimited Curriculum Module 11. Waterfowl: Conservation & Management Module 12. The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation Review Ducks Unlimited Certification Test Global Environmental Concerns and Solutions** Scientific Practices

*Subject to change

**This unit(s) will address the FL NGSSS not addressed by the Ducks Unlimited course.

Required Course Materials

Texts and Media

Textbook: Environmental Science: Sustaining Your World. G.T. Miller and S.E. Spoolman, National Geographic, 2018.

Other texts: Online: Ducks Unlimited Ecology Conservation & Management Certification resources



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Media: Click [HERE](#) to access other resources used in this course.

Procedures

Supplies

- Folder with prongs and pockets (to hold daily copies)
- Binder (to keep all copies at home, organized by unit)
- 2 sets of 8 tab binder dividers
- pen/pencils
- Chromebook (fully charged/provided by school)

Homework

Class time is allocated every day to work on the daily task(s) so homework usually consists of finishing the daily task(s). These daily assignments are graded as Habits of Work (HOW) assignments (see grading rubric in the Grading policies section below). Students should expect to memorize a lot of information, like environmental policy names and dates on a regular basis.

Laboratory Assignments

To comply with the federal and UF Environmental Health and Safety Division regulations, students are expected to wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) in order to participate in the lab investigations. PPE includes long pants that cover the ankle with no holes, shirts with sleeves and closed toed shoes. Socks and CROCS are NOT considered proper personal protective equipment (PPE). Students are informed about the labs at the beginning of the week and a Canvas inbox message reminder is sent by 6 pm on the day prior to the lab.

- Students not wearing the proper attire on the day of the lab will be asked to wear scrubs shirts and pants that are available in the classroom on a first come first serve basis.
- Students that do NOT wear closed toed shoes or the available scrubs will be seated for the entire duration of the lab wearing safety goggles. They will record data but will not be able to handle chemicals and glassware for safety reasons.
- Students that are absent are still responsible for submitting the lab assignment and all the course content covered in the investigation. They can ask their peers for the data gathered or they can use the data recorded and available on Canvas.



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General Expectations

4Rs

- Responsible: Students own their behaviors and take responsibility for them.
- Respectful: Students show respect for all people, materials, and places they attend.
- Resilient: Students take on challenges, and develop and apply skills to overcome them.
- Ready: Students are prepared to work and learn everyday; having the appropriate materials and a ready attitude.

Late Work Policy

Students are encouraged to complete all assignments by the specified due date which in most cases is at the end of the day (by 11:59 pm) to receive full credit (4/4 points) as indicated in the HOW rubric (see below). However, in order to provide some flexibility to their busy schedules, HOW assignments can be submitted on Canvas until the end of the unit with a late work penalty (as indicated under the timeliness category for the rubric of the HOW assignments). Once the HOW assignments are closed and the unit completed students will NOT receive credit for the HOW assignments.

Communication Protocols

Students can communicate with me by Canvas Inbox messages.

Families can communicate with the teacher by email to mcordero@pky.ufl.edu

Electronic Device Policy

Students must come to class every day with their charged Chromebook. During class, the Chromebook should be used only to participate in the class. Students should not have personal electronic devices out during class at any time for any purpose, unless instructed to do so.

9th-12th Grade

Students may possess a wireless communications device but may only use it outside of class time - or when a teacher gives explicit permission for instructional purposes. Devices must be stored in teacher-designated areas (backpack in the third floor Blue wing) during instructional time.

PK will provide access to telephones for students who need to contact families during times when they are prohibited from using their personal device.



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Grading Policy and Assessments

Grading

P.K. Yonge's Grading and Credit system is based on our shared beliefs about the purpose of assessment:

- Students should have a clear understanding and shared ownership of learning goals
- Grades should communicate what students know and are able to do both within and across disciplines
- Students should have multiple opportunities to practice, receive feedback, and demonstrate their knowledge and skills
- It is critical for students to develop productive habits of work alongside content and skill development

Type	Examples	% of Grade
Habits of Work	daily assignments and participation	5%
Formative	Quizzes, labs, Ducks Unlimited Assessments	20%
Summative	Ducks Unlimited end of module assessment, projects	75%

The chart below outlines the relationship between numerical grades, letter grades, mastery-language, and credit within our mastery-based system.



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Mastery-Language	Range (4-point grade system)	Meets Standard Course Credit Earned
Mastery (A)	3.51 - 4.0	GPA Point 4
Proficient (B)	3.01 - 3.5	GPA Point 3
Approaching (C)	2.51 - 3	GPA Point 2
Beginning (D)	2.01 - 2.5	GPA Point 1
Not Meeting (F)	.01 - 2.0	No Course Credit
No Evidence	0	No Course Credit

Habits of work (HOW) assignments will be assessed using the rubrics below.

Criteria	Grading Scale	What is expected for the scoring criteria?
Timeliness	2, 1, 0	2-Work is completed by the due date 1- Work is completed but not before the due date 0- Assignment is not completed
Quality of work	2, 1, 0	2- All work is of high quality (clear and complete sentences; calculations are clearly shown and include correct units.) 1- Work is completed but not of high quality (is not clear or does not show effort). 0- Work is not completed
Focus, Engagement and Effort	2, 1, 0	2-Always-Is always focused, engaged and showing full effort 1-Often-Is often focused, engaged and showing effort 0-Infrequently-Is infrequently focused, engaged and showing effort



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Social responsibility	2, 1, 0	2- Always- Is always mindful of classroom norms, respectful with classmates and teachers, treats materials with care and is a positive caring citizen in class 1-Often-Is often mindful of classroom norms, respectful with classmates and teachers, treats materials with care and is a positive caring citizen in class 0- Infrequently- Is infrequently mindful of classroom norms, respectful with classmates and teachers, treats materials with care and is a positive caring citizen in class
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Reassessment Policy

Students will be allowed to do three attempts for the formative quizzes for the Ducks Unlimited modules. Students will be allowed to do two attempts for the final assessment of each module on the Ducks Unlimited curriculum. In the case of projects, students will be able to resubmit an entire project as long as the topic/question is different to the original one. Students may have to make special arrangements to do reassessments if they are absent for any given reason. There are no resubmissions for habits of work assignments.

Academic Dishonesty

It is expected that the work you submit in this and all of your courses is your own original work, or if not, contains full acknowledgment of borrowed sources. The following instances are academically dishonest:

- Submitting the exact document/work of your classmates or lab teammates
- Submitting the same project as one of your classmates or a student in another corresponding class
- Copying answers from an online search or generated by artificial intelligence tools (i.e.ChatGPT). *AI generated responses* can be identified by recognizing vocabulary and content that is beyond the scope of this course. In the case of a research project, copying information from a resource without APA style citation.

Any academic dishonesty will result in the *failure of that assignment as the minimum consequence*; other consequences range from failure of the course to academic probation to dismissal from P.K. Yonge.

ALL instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the student's counselor and P.K. Yonge administration.