

Urban Ecology Syllabus, Expectations and Procedures

**Ms. Hunt
Urban Science Academy
SY 09-10**

Class General Information:

Course: Urban Ecology

Times: M-F Block A 7:20-8:20 or Block E 12:40-1:40

Teacher: Ms. Hunt

Location: Room 209

Contact: dhunt@urbansci.net

Urban Ecology

Course Description

Urban Ecology gives students a chance to study their city as a science. Through this course, students will discover the positive and negative aspects of a city, gain new appreciation for their city and become active citizens by drafting plans on a good citizen project that gives students the opportunity to do something positive in their community. Students will also develop new vocabulary that will help them assess conditions in cities as well as assist them in their field study work around the WREC campus.

Main topics that will be addressed over the duration of the course are:

- ✓ Introduction to Urban Ecology
- ✓ Land Use
- ✓ Energy and Climate Change
- ✓ Waste

Assessment

Students will be given a variety of opportunities to show the learning within the course. Group work is included in every lesson. Students will work in groups using objects, simulations, maps and charts to practice with new material. Homework will reflect topics learned in class that week. Quizzes will be given weekly to check for understanding of the material. Chapter test will assess students' knowledge of the whole unit. Outdoor field work is a requirement of this class on a weekly basis if weather permits. Students will also have the chance to work on projects to further learning and an end of course whole class good citizen initiative.

Expectations & Procedures

Classroom Expectations

- ✓ Everyone will give and receive respect

- ✓ Whoever is speaking deserves everyone's full attention. No speaking out of turn, side conversations or interruptions
- ✓ Listen carefully so that you may hear directions. If you are ever unclear about directions, please ask for clarification
- ✓ Everyone must remain in their seat
- ✓ No horseplay
- ✓ Arriving on time is a sign of respect for the class, teacher, and your peers. Also it will ensure that you will not miss out on any important announcements. Students who are late to class will be given a warning the 1st time. Subsequent tardiness will result in a discipline referral to Mr. Hilliard.

Consequences

There are always consequences to your actions weather they are good consequences or bad consequences. Everyone must be accountable for their behavior. If undesirable behavior is repeated the following consequences will take place:

- ✓ Warning
- ✓ Repeated Infractions – Referral to Mr. Hilliard, phone call to parent, Parent/Teacher meeting with an Action Plan, etc.

Being Prepared For Class

For every class you will need...

- ✓ Your notebook
- ✓ Something to write with
- ✓ An open and ready mind

If you come to class with no pen or pencil you can use whatever is available in the student supply area. Understand that once this supply of materials is gone, it's gone. If you depend on the supply area everyday then you are also hurting your peers in this class and others.

Entering the Class

Come right in, find your seat, get out your notebook, and get right to work on the Do Now. It will be located on the board for you to work on silently for the first 5 minutes of the class.

Seating Assignments

There will be assigned seating. Switches can be made with teacher's discretion at any time. A new seating arrangement will be established the next quarter so that you have a chance to work with other students in the class.

Daily Agenda and Learning Objectives

Everyday there will be an agenda and learning objectives posted on the board. These will let you know what our goals are for the day and how we are going to achieve them.

Homework Policies

Homework will be given out Monday-Thursday. NO weekends! Homework should be passed in on time. Students can pass in homework late for partial credit. Homework that is a week old will not be accepted. All homework assignments will be checked for completeness during the Do Now. It is important to do homework because most of the questions for tests and quizzes will come from homework exercises.

Extra Credit

Challenge of the Week (C.O.W.) questions will be posted in the class for students who have missing homework, to try to regain lost homework points.

Quiz and Test Policy

Quizzes and tests will be administered during class time and will be announced in advance to give students a chance to study and ask questions prior to the test date. For every test or quiz cheating will not be tolerated. If you are caught cheating, I reserve the right to give you and the person you are cheating from a zero.

Projects

Projects are worth as much as tests and are designed to help students who are not good test takers a chance to succeed with each unit.

These will be announced in advance and a rubric will be given for each project.

Handing In Class work

Every activity we do in class will be accompanied by some written work. This can be a worksheet or notebook work. Class work will be checked at the end of

class for completeness in the form of exit tickets/ Wrap Ups. To exit the class on time you must show proof of the work you did during class. Exit slips will be announced towards the end of class. Most class work will be done in groups. Even though you work as a group to discuss answers no one in a group should have identical answers.

Your Biology Notebook

You will be receiving a spiral notebook to create your science interactive notebook. More detail about the structure of the notebook will be detailed through a PowerPoint presentation.

Class Discussion/Sharing Thoughts

Class discussions will be facilitated first by “volunteer cards”. This is a stack of student name cards. I will randomly select a card from the batch to choose a student to speak. Not all discussions will be facilitated in this manner.

Lab Safety and Procedures

See lab rules posted at back of classroom. Please be advised that some labs will take place outside around the school building. I will announce when this will happen in advance. If you know lab will be outside please dress appropriate to the weather conditions. Students and parents will sign off an outdoor lab behavior contract.

If You Are Tardy

Zero tolerance for tardiness. You must be in the room by the bell. Tardiness will result in discipline referral to Mr. Hilliard. Freshmen will follow rules created by your core teachers.

If You Are Absent

In the student work area there is a basket that is labeled for this class. Any work given out during the week will be put into that basket. Work after that will move to the file cabinet and organized in folders from week to week.

If I Am Absent

I ALWAYS LEAVE WORK BEHIND TO BE COMPLETED! Look on board for directions and pick up worksheets from front lab bench

If You Need to Leave the Classroom

A hall pass will be located at the front of the room in the file holder. Please fill out the sign out book with your name, date, reason for leaving, time out and time in. Bathroom breaks will be monitored. Those students who take obsessive bathroom breaks will be warned. If behavior does not cease, bathroom privileges will be stripped for the rest of the quarter.

Dismissal

The bell does not dismiss you. **I DO.** As long as we stay on task, you will be let out of class on time. I will try my best not to hold you back for very long after the bell rings.

Contacting Parents/Guardians

We here at Urban Science Academy believe that families are a very important part of the learning process. Because we believe this we will contact your families early and often. I will also call your families when we feel you are doing really well. This means not all phone calls home will be bad ones.

Cut here -----

I have read over the entire document and understand the expectations and rules discussed throughout the packet for the Urban Ecology course. I understand that all students are expected to follow the guidelines outlined in the previous pages.

Parent Name (Print)

Student Name (Print)

Parent Signature

Student Signature

Date

Date

Please return signed form to Ms. Hunt. Keep this packet for your records. A copy of this document will be available in class for referral at any time.