

Anne Fenton

GEOSYSTEMS@ CHANTILLY

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CourseOutline & Policy Statement

OVERVIEW

Geosystems is an upper-level, technology-based, Earth and environmental science course. It integrates Earth Science content from the Virginia Standards of Learning, various forms of technology, social and environmental issues, and hands-on laboratory experiments. It incorporates astronomy, meteorology, geology, oceanography, and environmental science into a holistic explanation of our planet as a “system”. A large portion of the course will involve students working in groups of two or three, researching and presenting ideas and concepts using the computer, specialized software, and the internet.

The SOL FCPS course Program of Studies, for Geosystems is available at www.fcps.edu/DIS/pos/hsscipos.pdf

The VA Standards of Learning is available at www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/science/index.shtml

*****COURSE TOPICS:

- **Astronomy: Cosmology, Solar Nebulae Theory, Planet Characteristics, Scientific Investigation**
- **Meteorology: Frontal Development; Severe Weather (Tornadoes, Hurricanes), Climate (Climate Change, climate zones), weather map interpretation**
- **Geology: Rocks and Minerals, Plate Tectonics (evidence, earthquakes, volcanism), weathering & erosion, hydrology, Virginia geology, historical geology**
- **Oceanography: Physical characteristics, plate tectonics, ocean water properties, El Nino/La Nina**
- **Environmental issues: Fossil fuels/Alternative Fuels, Climate Change impacts on Earth.**

GRADING POLICIES

1. You will be graded on a weighted system. Your quarter grade will be determined based on the Fairfax County Grading Scale.

- Tests and quizzes = 65%
- Labs and class activities = 25%
- Homework = 10%

2. FINAL COURSE GRADE

- Each of the four quarters is worth one-fifth. The final & mid-term averaged exam is also worth one-fifth. Those students who have earned an “A or A-” for each of the four quarters may be exempt from taking the final exam. You MUST be present in class during the day of the final exam unless an alternative arrangement has been made with your ADMINISTRATOR.
- Mid-term exam –In order to be able to “opt” out of the final exam the student will need to receive a grade of at least a “B” on the mid-term in addition to earning an “A” during each quarter.
- The SOL exam taken in May of the school year will also be included as a portion of your final exam grade. Students scoring a passing grade on the SOL will receive an additional 5% incentive on their exam and an additional 10% incentive for a pass-advance score.

3. CLASSWORK

- Class work, labs, tests, and quizzes, missed due to an excused absence must be made up during Charger Time periods or after school as soon as reasonably possible. Students are expected to submit work by announced and posted deadlines. Late work will be accepted for partial credit up to the date of the work’s unit test.
- Class work should be completed in-class. If circumstance prevent the students from finishing work in class, then the student will either need to finish up during Charger Time,

afterschool, or at home. Some assignments can only be made up in the classroom because of software availability.

- After school hours are as follows:
 - Mondays 2:10 - 3:30
 - Wednesdays by appointment
 - Thursdays by appointment
- Credit for makeup work will not be awarded for **any unexcused absences**. However, you will still be responsible for the content material for those days missed.
- **End-of-Quarter Work:** The last day to turn in quarter work will be posted; however, as a general rule it will be ONE WEEK prior to the end of the quarter.
- All homework is due at the **beginning** of the class period of the due day. Homework due on a day missed from an excused absence is due the day that the student returns to class.

4. EXTRACREDIT -There will be limited amounts of extra credit available throughout the school year. Any extra credit opportunity will be aligned with the Geosystems curriculum.

ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

Academic misconduct will not be tolerated. Copying any work for this class, asking or having others do work for you, and using the words or ideas of others without citation all constitute academic misconduct and will be referred to administration. In science, it is expected that you confer and dialogue with your peers about the work that is due because you have the same data; however, **all final work is individual work meaning that the ideas are expressed are your own in your own words.**

CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT

1. Food & Drinks: Absolutely **NO** food or beverage containers will be allowed back in the computer lab area.
2. Basic Safety: Basic safety will be discussed and will be as you have learned and followed in science class. Each lab

team will be responsible for cleaning up their area.

3. Blackboard.com: Each student (and parent/guardian) can access Blackboard for information to important dates (i.e., upcoming tests, quizzes, and project due dates), as well as for additional copies of class assignments and rubrics. Blackboard can be accessed through the FCPS website under the 24/7 link.
4. Student materials: One binder with available loose-leaf paper. The students need to bring the notebook with them to EVERY class (including LS).
5. Student responsibilities:
 - Excellence is a HABIT! Come to class prepared, ready to learn and practice EXCELLENCE!
 - Disruptive and/or disrespectful behavior is not permitted. A good rule of thumb is “keep your hands off of your classmates.”
 - Sleeping or having your head down during class is counterproductive to learning and is not permitted.
 - Use of iPods and MP3s are not permitted in class. Cell phones may be used at the discretion of the teacher.
 - Be **considerate** **courteous**..... **responsible** and be **knowledgeable** about the **consequences**!

Enforcement of the above, as necessary, will normally involve a sequence of *warning*, *classroomdetention*, and *administrativereferral*, in accordance with school policy. Should circumstances so dictate then lower levels of action may be omitted in order to appropriately address a particular situation.

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