

**Honors Earth Science
Course Outline
Mr. Niescier [pronounced (knee-sure)]**

1. Course Description

Welcome! In this course, we will explore three main areas of Earth Science: Astronomy, Meteorology and Geology. This is a Regents course which means you are required to fulfill specific requirements.

Lab Requirement: Every student must complete a minimum number of labs. If you fail to satisfactorily complete the labs, you will not be eligible to take the lab performance test or the final exam, and you will fail the course.

Lab Performance Test: Every student who meets the lab requirement will take this test early in June. The lab performance test counts as approximately 15% of your final exam grade. You cannot be absent from this exam.

Final Exam: This consists of the lab performance test (above) plus a written Regents exam that will be taken during final exam week in June. The written exam counts as approximately 85% of your final exam grade.

2. Grading Procedures

Quarterly grades will be based on preparation, homework, lab reports, quizzes and tests.

3. Student Responsibilities

Attendance: You are expected to arrive to class on time and have materials ready when the bell rings. If you are late, you will be marked late. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to see Mr. Niescier to find out what work was missed. Details about attendance requirements and make-up absences can be found in the student handbook.

Required Supplies:

Pencils with erasers, pens

2" or 3" binder, to be kept in class

Five Section Dividers for 3-ring binder (consider making these)

One basic pocket folder, to be kept in class and will *not be given back*

Small supply of lined paper (~25 sheets)

Notebook: You are responsible for maintaining your notebook. Notebook checks will occur throughout the year for a grade. *Helpful hint:* fasten papers in your notebook immediately. Your notebook will be kept in class, but can be taken home to study.

Homework: Homework is expected to be completed on time. You will be given multiple days to complete most assignments. If you are absent, homework is due on the day you return to school. *Good advice:* write homework assignments into your planner and turn homework assignments in on time.

Class Work: Class work is expected to be completed during the time given in class.

Tests and Quizzes: If you are absent the day of a test or quiz, you will take the test or quiz on the day you return. You are responsible to make up the work you missed while making up the test or quiz. If you are absent two or more days, you will schedule a time with Mr. Niescier to make up the test or quiz within 5 days of the absence.

Lab Reports: You are responsible to turn in your lab reports the day it is due. If you are absent the day a lab is given it is your responsibility to make arrangements with Mr. Niescier within 5 days of the date of the date of absence to make up the lab. No labs will be accepted for grade credit after the end of a marking period, but will still need to be completed for Regents Earth Science credit.

Extra Help: Extra help is readily available. Please let Mr. Niescier know if you would like extra help. Also check out: www.reviewearthscience.com

Behavior: It is your responsibility to...

Arrive to class on time

Have materials ready and be in your seat when the bell rings

Listen to directions (they are only given once)

Show respect for people and property

One person will speak at a time and others will listen

Follow rules in your student handbook (including bullying)

If you arrive late, quietly go to your seat

Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Unacceptable behavior choices will result in teacher and/ or class detention, parent phone calls and/ or conference, and appropriate action from administration.

Safety: You will receive special instruction in this aspect of Earth Science. It is required that you follow all instructions regarding safety procedures. Failure to do so will endanger yourself and others in the classroom and will be grounds for removal from class.

I look forward to working with all of you and I hope you enjoy this exciting course!

