

**ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS AND SOCIETIES
THE AMAZING YEAR 2**

Ms. Cordes
Syllabus 2019-20



Contact information

Email: cordesr@sd5.k12.mt.us (This is the EASIEST way to reach me)

Web page: www.ms Cordes.com

Voice Mail: 751-3589

Classroom: Rm 223

Grades: <http://powerschool.sd5.k12.mt.us>

If you ever have questions or need extra help on assignments outside of class, I am available before and after school every day.

Welcome to Environmental Systems and Societies- year 2!

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

ESS 2 is an exciting continuation of the exploration of environmental processes through active involvement in laboratory experiments, primary literature research, textbooks, videos, and field studies. The emphasis of this course is twofold:

- 1) to provide and apply a body knowledge, methodologies, and skills to analyze environmental issues at local and global levels
- 2) promote collaboration and a critical awareness of a diversity of cultural perspectives in working to solve current ecological problems

Students will discover connections between all organisms and their environment. Major topics to be covered are: global climate change, soil and food production, population dynamics, natural capital, pollution management, history of ecology, oceans, and environmental value systems. In addition, all topics from ESS 1 will be reviewed throughout the year to prepare for the IB exams in May. This course will be taught using an inquiry approach in which students become involved in the scientific process and ultimately plan and carry out original, independent scientific research.

ESS 2 will also examine ethics and ethical analysis, decision making in today's controversial world, and the relationship between science and management.

I encourage ALL students to take the ESS IB exam in May 2020. It is an additional opportunity to earn potential college credit for all their hard work! All class activities are designed to prepare students for the successful completion of both their internal and external assessments. Internal assessments will receive both an FHS grade and a separate grade from IB.

The possibilities for ESS are endless (i.e. experiments that the students can conduct, field studies, habitat reconstruction projects, etc...). The quality of the course experience will depend largely on the amount of cooperation between students, teacher, and parents. At present, I am planning at least three field trips.

Current field trips planned:

Glacier Park field trip --- Sept. 21-22, 2019

IA Investigations --- October - December 2019

Ocean ecosystem field study --- April 2-6, 2020

NOTE: Students must be passing all classes to participate in field trips.

Fundraising opportunities:

- Toyota Tacoma raffle tickets -- \$8/ticket sold goes to defray your trip costs- see Ms. Cordes to check out your tickets!
- Concessions – Dates to be announced

HONOR YOURSELF

- Be prepared by bringing required materials to class
- Be productive by actively listening, asking questions, following instructions, and using your class time to work
- Be honest
- Be a dreamer by connecting what you are learning to yourself and your life goals- think BIG! Do your best.

HONOR COMMUNITY

- Be on time to class
- Be a leader by beginning to work quietly or reminding those around you to stay on task
- Be polite by not distracting others
- Be respectful of the opinions of others, even if they differ from your own

HONOR THE MOMENT

- Be fully present by putting your phone and music away
- Be excited about learning- WONDER!
- Be grateful

Further details...

1. Snacking during class is a privilege. Please ask first. Drinks are allowed IF THEY HAVE LIDS. Any food or drink that does not meet these criteria will be confiscated until the end of class.
2. **UNPLUG!!! Technology is a tool, not a distraction. Cell phones and ipods/mp3 players should not be visible or in use AT ANY TIME unless special permission is granted (please ask).** If these devices are visible (earbuds included) at any other time, they will be confiscated.
3. FHS attendance policy and attendance incentive have changed. See the student handbook for details.
4. FHS dress code is to be followed AT ALL TIMES. See the student handbook for details.
5. Cheating, plagiarism, and copyright violations will not be tolerated. A first offense results in a zero on the assignment. A second offense results in potential failure of the entire semester.

Homework and assignments

All assignments will be recorded on my web page (so if you are at home and cannot remember if there is homework- check online!).

ALL FINAL DRAFTS OF PAPERS MUST BE TYPED! Emailed copies are acceptable under specific situations (especially when your printer runs out of ink!). **Time will not be given in class to print assignments on the day they are due. Assignments must be submitted in the first FIVE minutes of class to be considered on time.**

Daily work is graded on four criteria: completeness, promptness, originality, and quality. Assignments that are complete, original work of high quality, and handed in on time, will receive full credit.

Makeup work for excused absences can be completed according to the schedule described in the student handbook.

LATE WORK will receive partial credit. Every task assigned is an important step in preparation for the final projects/assessments. Doing the all the work is crucial for a student's success in ESS!

Please note: EXTRA CREDIT IS NOT AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS WHO HAVE MISSING ASSIGNMENTS OR HAVE EXCEEDED THE THREE DAY ATTENDANCE INCENTIVE.

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO FIND OUT WHAT YOU HAVE MISSED. The best places to start are your classmates and my website.

NOTEBOOK AND SUPPLIES REQUIREMENT:

- a. a three ring binder for completed assessment statements
- b. a folder for class materials/handouts
- c. a composition lab notebook for IA data
- d. paper (loose leaf)
- e. pencil and a pen with blue or black ink

****If you have difficulty obtaining any of these supplies, please see me BEFORE they are needed in class****

DO NOT THROW OUT ANY WORK FROM THIS CLASS. YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN YOU MIGHT NEED IT!

FHS GRADE DETAILS

A	90-100	Semester grades are based on weighted categories and the semester final.
B	80-89	Categories: Daily assignments/homework (40%); Labs (25%); Tests/Quizzes (25%);
C	70-79	Semester exam (10%)
D	60-69	
F	0-59	I <u>do not round</u> percentages- what you earn is what you get!

IB ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Assessment component	Weighting (%)	Approximate weighting of objectives in each component (%)		Duration (hours)
		1 and 2	3	
Paper 1 (case study)	25	50	50	1
Paper 2 (short answers and structured essays)	50	50	50	2
Internal assessment (individual investigation)	25	Covers objectives 1, 2, 3 and 4		10

ANTICIPATED TOPIC SCHEDULE 2019-20

Sept. --- Global climate change, GNP field trip, IA skills refresher (Topics 2 and 7)

Oct. --- Soils (Topics 2 and 5) and IA investigation

Nov. --- Food production and natural capital (Topics 4 and 5)

Dec. --- Energy and final IA opportunity (Topic 7)

Jan. --- Pollution (Topic 6)

Feb. --- Population demographics (Topic 8)

March --- Ocean ecosystems (Topics 2, 3, and 4)

April --- Ecology field camp and exam prep (Review Topics 1-8)

May --- Exams and further exploration of topics of interest

June --- Graduation!!

Questions??? Please ask! I am so excited to work with you as you pursue exciting research, dynamic discussions, and exam success. It is going to be an amazing year 😊

Please sign below, and return this portion to Ms. Cordes by Tuesday, September 10, 2019.

I really did read the class information sheet and am aware of what is required of me as a student in Ms. Cordes' class. I agree to follow these guidelines throughout the school year. I have located the information sheet in my ESS folder/binder where I can refer to it when needed.

Student signature _____

Student email: _____

I have read the class information sheet and am aware of what is required of my son/daughter in Ms. Cordes' class.

Parent signature _____

Please contact me via:

Home phone _____ Cell phone _____

Email _____

Thank you for your support at home!