

# ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS AND SOCIETIES EXCITING YEAR 1 EXPLORATIONS

Ms. Cordes  
Syllabus 2019-20



## Contact information

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

Web page: [www.mscondes.com](http://www.mscondes.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 1!

### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

ESS 1 is an exciting exploration of environmental processes. 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: systems and models, ecosystems, conservation and biodiversity, pollution management, and environmental value systems. 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 1 will also incorporate the history and development of ecology, the place of ethics and ethical analysis, decision making in today's controversial world, and the relationship between science and management.

Students may choose to take the IB exam in May 2021. All class activities are designed to prepare students for the successful completion of 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 four field trips.

### Current field trips planned:

- Glacier Park field trip --- Sept. 21-22, 2019
- Aquatic Ecosystem Investigation --- October 2019
- Great Backyard Bird Count --- February 2020
- 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

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!

**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 😊

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**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!**