**EARTH SCIENCE**

Fall 2016

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| **Instructor:**Leslee Gordon  **Office Hours:** Before school 7:45 – 8:15 in C-206  Mon, Tues, Thur | **Email:** leslee\_gordon@charleston.k12.sc.us  **Website:** http://gordonearthweebly.com  **Remind.com Updates:** text: @gordonhes (honors) @gordones (CP)  to 81010 |
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**Course Description:**

Earth Science is a laboratory course designed to serve as a foundation course for other high school science courses. It emphasizes inquiry-based learning, process skills, and higher order thinking skills. Instruction is based on the SC Science Curriculum Standards, where that content will be interwoven within multiple case studies throughout the semester. Because experimentation is the basis of science, laboratory investigations are an integral part of this course. Investigative, hands-on laboratory activities that address the high school inquiry standards are central to effective instruction in this course. The following scope and sequence of the class is based on the South Carolina Earth Science State Standards. General topics of each unit, standards covered within each unit, and the general time frame of each unit.

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| **Case Study 1**  **Dinosaurs and Earth’s History** | **Case Study 2**  **Geology and History of South Carolina** | **Case Study 3**  **Space** |
| **Unit 1(10 days)**  3a.5, 4a.4, 4a.5, 4a.6   * Fossils * Minerals * Rocks * Dating (Relative and Absolute)   **Unit 2 (8 days)**  3b.1, 4a.1, 4a.2, 4a.3, 4a.7   * Earth’s History * Chemistry Basics * Carbon Cycle * Fossil Fuel Formation   **Unit 3 (9 days)**  3a.1, 3a.2, 3a.3, 3a.4, 3b.3, 4a.3, 4a.7, 5a.7   * Earth’s Composition * Plate Tectonics and Evidence * Ring of Fire * Volcanoes * Sea Floor Data * Earthquakes + Epicenter Triangulation * Geologic Climate Changes * Extinction Events | **Unit 4(11 days)**  3a.5, 3a.6, 3a.7, 3a.8, 3b.3, 4a.3, 4a.4, 4a.5, 5a.7, 6a.2, 6a.3, 6a.6, 6a.8   * Climate over Geologic Time * Regions of South Carolina * South Carolina Soil * Mountain Building and Erosion * Rivers, Watersheds, Water Cycle * Coastal Plains, Karst Topography * Coastal Zone, Barrier Islands   **Unit 5(9 days)**  5a.1, 5a.2, 5a.3, 5a.4, 5a.5, 5a.6, 6a.1, 6a.7   * Atmosphere Composition * Atmospheric Circulation * Greenhouse Gasses * Ocean Circulation * Weather Maps / Isobars * Severe Weather / Hurricanes   **Unit 6(15 days)**  3b.1, 3b.2, 3b.3, 3b.4, 3b.5, 4a.7, 5a.8, 6a.4, 6a.5, 6a.8, 6a.9   * Human Impact * Shore Erosion * Mining and Agriculture * Developing Infrastructure * Use of Fossil Fuels / Natural Resources * Humans and Climate Change | **Unit 7(12 days)**  2a.1, 2a.2, 2a.3, 2a.4, 2a.5, 2b.1, 2b.2, 2b.3, 2b.4   * Formation of the Universe * Life Cycle of Stars * Formation of Galaxies * Our Solar System * The Moon |
| **Cumulative Exam on Units 1 – 3**  **(2x Major Assignment Grade)** | **Cumulative Exam on Units 4 – 6**  **(2x Major Assignment Grade)** | **Final Exam on Units 1 – 8**  **20% of Overall Grade** |

**\* indicates an additional topic for honors classes**

**Materials:**

You are expected to come to class prepared with the following items:

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| * Pens, Pencils * 3 Ring Binder, preferably 1 inch | * Coloring stuff (colored pencils, crayons, markers) * Calculator * Textbook |

**Grading System:**

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| **South Carolina Grading Policy** | **Grade Weights** | |
| A = 100% - 90%  B = 89% - 80%  C = 79% - 70%  D = 69% - 60%  F = 59% - 00% | **Honors** | **College Prep** |
| Major Assignments = 50%  Intermediate Assignments = 30%  Daily Assignments = 20% | Major Assignments = 40%  Intermediate Assignments = 35%  Daily Assignments = 25% |

**Grading Categories:**

**Major Assignments** - Tests, Major Projects, Major Labs, Midterm Exam,

**Intermediate Assignments** - Quizzes, Minor Projects, Labs, Study Guides

**Daily Assignments** - Articles, Classwork, Homework, Daily Activities

**Common Cumulative Exams:**

Students will take three (3) cumulative exams that will be common assessments throughout the Earth Science curriculum team. The first two common assessments will be cumulative overviews of each of the first two case studies (units 1-3 and units 4-6) and will count as 2 major assignment grades each. The final common assessment will be the Final Exam, which will be cumulative of everything that has been covered in class throughout the semester.Cumulative final examinations have a computational weight of 20 percent of the final average, as per CCSD policy, are required for all students in 9th thru 11th grades.

# Class Assignments

This course will be presented and sequenced within an inquiry-based learning approach. In many sections, we will complete laboratory investigations before discussing the concepts in class. Because of this approach, and because much of the material builds upon what was previously learned, it is essential that you keep track of the classwork and homework assignments. You are expected to be a responsible learner. This means you should study/review the material daily, ask questions for clarification in class, answer questions in class, seek an understanding of the concept-rather than just memorizing something you don’t understand, and prepare for a test in a timely manner.

***Tests***

Tests will be given at the end of a unit. There will usually be a mix of multiple choice, interpreting data, and discussion questions. You will be required to use the information we have discussed in class in a test situation. Tests will NOT be simple restatement of definitions or concepts, as tests are for comprehension and understanding.*Poor test grades reflect poor preparation.* Your effort in the class will be reflected in your test grade. There are no test retakes.

***Quizzes***

Quizzes will be given throughout the semester. Many will be announced a few days in advance, however some will be unannounced. Daily bell work should be a great marker for what you need to know for tests and quizzes.

***Homework***

You will be assigned class work / homework regularly. This work is designed to help you practice the skills we have learned in class and build on your understanding of those skills. If you don’t finish class work that we start in class, it becomes homework. It is understood that you should walk into class the next day and be ready to take, and be successful taking, a quiz on material that we covered the previous day. Even if I don’t “assign” homework, if you wouldn’t get a +90% on a pop quiz the next day, you have homework. STUDY! I check homework sporadically. You should be prepared to show it to me every day. I also sporadically collect homework. You should be prepared to turn it in to me on a daily basis. **Late homework will not be acceptedexcept in the case of absence**. If it is not done when I collect it, it is considered late. When returning from an absence, you are responsible for turning in your missed assignments.

# Class Participation

What you put into this class will be what you get out. Active participation is essential in Earth Science. This is true whether we are completing notes and having a class discussion, working on practice problems, or completing activities and labs. This class is not meant to be observation. You will be given many opportunities to participate in class. Remember, poor participation includes not paying attention to discussions, lectures, or instructions; sleeping; talking; being distracted by your phone, and being generally disruptive.

**Make-Up and Missed Work**

***It is your responsibility to make up any missed work within five days of your return.*** Check the class website. Come see me when you miss a day. I will point you towards anything you missed. If there were any additional notes that were not part of a handout, you are responsible for getting them from a partner. You will also need to get with someone in the class who can give you an overview of the class you missed. You are responsible for keeping up with these things during non-instruction time. **IF YOU MISS A DAY, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILTY TO GET CAUGHT UP!**

**BEHAVIORAL PROCEDURES**

**All Wando High School and Charleston County School District policies will be adhered to.**

* **Everyone is expected to be in their seats preparing to start class before the tardy bell rings.** There will be bellwork each day waiting for you to complete the first five minutes of every class.
* **Tardies will follow the Wando High School Tardy Policy.** If the tardy bell rings and the door shuts, make your way down to the Rotunda, scan your ID, and bring your FastPass back to my classroom for entry into class.
* **Respect Yourself, Your Classmates, and This Classroom.**  Everyone’s opinions and contributions to class are welcomed.
* **Everyone will be active listeners.** When someone else is talking you must be attentive and courteous.
* **Everyone is expected to have all materials necessary for class with them everyday.**  You will need your class notebook, textbook, paper, and a writing utensil everyday in class.
* **All students will wait for specific instructions before entering the lab.** You are not to use any materials or lab equipment without explicit instruction from Mr. Banker. No student should use the sinks, safety shower, or emergency eye wash unless there is an absolute emergency.

1st offense – warning/ conference with the teacher

2nd offense – detention and parent contact

3rd offense – detention and parent contact

4th offense – referral to the administration

**Expectations for Ms. Gordon’s Earth Science**

**You can expect that I will…**

1. be proficient in the subject matter.
2. be available to answer your questions or discuss anything pertaining to this course.
3. be on time and prepared for class daily.
4. provide coherent notes and instruction.
5. manage and control the class to provide the best learning environment for everyone.
6. provide timely feedback pertaining to grades in the course.
7. clearly communicate test dates and due dates to everyone.

**I can expect that you…**

1. accept personal responsibility for your learning. You bear the responsibility for your learning. Your instructor serves as a guide, mentor, and resource.
2. are here to learn and are intellectually engaged by and curious about ideas.
3. understand that a great deal of learning will take place outside of the classroom in the form of studying.
4. recognize that mastery (earning an A) is seen as the ability to apply what you've learned to new situations or to solve new kinds of problems.
5. understand grades are earned by consistent effort, hard work, perseverance, and learning. If learning does not occur, all of your hard work, perseverance, and consistent effort will not ensure a passing grade.
6. will ask questions as they arise.
7. are responsible for keeping up with the class schedule and course material. Absence is not an excuse, nor does it mitigate your responsibilities.
8. are responsible for assessing your progress and seeking help.
9. come to class prepared to engage in and discuss content for each day’s lecture.