



Geneseo High School- New Course Proposal

State Course Code: 03207A000

Name of Course: AP Environmental Science

Targeted Grade Level/s and Students: 11th & 12th

Any Prerequisites: Two years of high school laboratory science, including life science and physical science, along with at least one year of algebra I.

Is this course an elective? - yes

Rationale for the new course: Offering AP Environmental Science as a new course provides high school students with the opportunity to engage in interdisciplinary learning that combines biology, chemistry, and earth science, fostering a deeper understanding of real-world environmental challenges. This course equips students with critical thinking and problem-solving skills necessary to address global issues such as climate change, resource management, and pollution. Additionally, it promotes environmental literacy, encouraging informed decision-making and responsible citizenship. By introducing students to sustainability concepts and scientific practices, the course prepares them for college-level science and careers in environmental fields, while also fulfilling the growing demand for environmental education.

Description of Course: AP Environmental Science (APES) is an interdisciplinary course that explores the relationships between natural systems and human impacts. Students study ecosystems, biodiversity, pollution, energy resources, and global environmental challenges. Through scientific analysis and critical thinking, they investigate environmental problems and sustainable solutions. The course emphasizes data analysis, modeling, and informed decision-making to prepare students for the AP exam and promote environmental awareness.

Unit Names:

- The Living World: Ecosystems
- The Living World: Biodiversity
- Populations
- Earth Systems and Resources
- Land and Water Use
- Energy Resources and Consumption
- Atmospheric Pollution
- Aquatic and Terrestrial Pollution
- Global Change

Main Course Concepts/Skills/Topics to be taught:

Concepts:

1. **Ecosystems:** Energy flow, biogeochemical cycles, and ecosystem dynamics.
2. **Biodiversity:** Evolution, species interactions, and ecosystem services.
3. **Population Dynamics:** Growth models, carrying capacity, and human population impacts.
4. **Earth Systems:** Atmospheric, hydrospheric, and geospheric processes, and soil science.
5. **Land and Water Use:** Sustainable practices in agriculture, forestry, and urban development.
6. **Energy Resources:** Types of energy sources, efficiency, and environmental impacts.
7. **Pollution:** Air, water, and land pollution, including sources, effects, and control measures.
8. **Global Change:** Climate change, ozone depletion, and biodiversity loss.

Skills:

1. **Data Analysis:** Interpreting scientific data and graphs.
2. **Modeling:** Understanding and applying ecological and environmental models.
3. **Scientific Argumentation:** Developing and presenting evidence-based arguments.
4. **Problem Solving:** Identifying environmental problems and proposing sustainable solutions.
5. **Field Research:** Conducting experiments and investigations related to environmental science.
6. **Critical Thinking:** Evaluating environmental policies and practices from multiple perspectives.

Any estimated costs:

1. Start Up Costs- ~\$1,400.00
2. Annual Yearly Costs- ~\$600.00



Geneseo High School- New Course Proposal

State Course Code: 05151A000

Name of Course: Art Appreciation - Dual Credit (one semester)

Targeted Grade Level/s and Students: Junior and Senior Students

Any Prerequisites: none

Is this course an elective? - yes

Rationale for the new course: Offering a dual credit Art 100 "Art Appreciation" course introduces high school students to the elements, principles, and processes of fine and applied arts. By studying great works as cultural and historical expressions, students develop critical thinking and creative analysis skills. Earning college credit in this course provides an affordable way to experience college-level learning while enhancing both academic and cultural literacy.

Description of Course: An introduction to the world of fine and applied arts. Students will learn the elements and principles of art and the media and processes used in various artforms. Great works of art are examined as expressions of a culture, a historical period, and as they relate to a common theme.

Unit Names:

- Introduction to visual art
- Fundamentals of 2D works
- Fundamentals of 3D works
- Art analysis
- 2D media and processes
- 3D media and processes
- Digital media and processes
- History and context
- Themes in art

Main Course Concepts/Skills/Topics to be taught:

- Analyze and evaluate art works utilizing knowledge of the visual elements and principles of design
- Recognize the technical skill required to use a variety of art media
- Discuss the form and content of significant works of art
- Identify the function and meaning of artworks as part of material culture through knowledge of art history and themes
- Analyze the contributions of art to civilization
- Understand the roles of the artist, observer, and society in visual culture

Any estimated costs: \$30 per credit hour plus textbook/materials fee. *This will automatically be billed to the student's Black Hawk account.*



Geneseo High School- New Course Proposal

State Course Code: 08016A000

Name of Course: Personal Fitness

Targeted Grade Level/s and Students: 10th-12th

Is this course an elective? - yes

Rationale for the new course: **Individualized Focus on Health and Wellness:** Unlike regular PE, which often emphasizes team sports and general physical activity, *Personal Fitness* would focus on personalized fitness goals, helping students develop lifelong habits around health, wellness, and exercise. This course would give students the tools to create customized fitness routines based on their specific health needs, fitness levels, and personal interests.

Description of Course: The *Personal Fitness* course is a year-long program focused on promoting individual health, fitness, and wellness through a variety of activities such as cardio, strength training, flexibility exercises, and mindfulness. Students will participate in activities like running, yoga, HIIT workouts, and leisure sports such as tennis and disc golf, all designed to build lifelong fitness habits. Aligned with *Shape America* standards, the course emphasizes developing motor skills, applying fitness concepts, and managing stress.

Unit Names:

- Cardio
- Strength
- Flexibility
- Total Body
- Muscular Endurance
- Agility
- Leisure/Lifetime Activities
- Mindfulness/Yoga

Main Course Concepts/Skills/Topics to be taught: Aligned with *Shape America* standards, students will demonstrate competency in motor skills (Standard 1) and apply fitness concepts and strategies (Standard 2). They will also develop stress management techniques (Standard 3) and learn to work respectfully in group activities, think critically, and express themselves through physical activity.

Any estimated costs: None



Geneseo High School- Course Proposal

Name of Course: Unified PE

Targeted Grade Level/s and Students: All grade levels, all students welcome to take!

Is this course an elective? Yes

Rationale for the new course: Unified PE provides a unique opportunity for students with and without disabilities to come together through ongoing educational and physical activities.

Benefits for students:

General Education Students: leadership, friendships, and fitness

Life Skills Students: inclusion, friendships, and fitness

Additionally, this would be a great opportunity for our students interested in pursuing a career in general education, special education, athletic training/physical therapy.

Description of Course: Unified PE is an inclusive course in which it will be offered for students who typically do not participate in a general physical education course and/or could benefit from an accommodated physical education environment, AND students who are able to participate in a general physical education course. This class will teach skills to help every student enrolled in the course. Students will have the opportunity to participate in new social environments and model different skills for their peers. Class activities will be adapted or modified to meet the individual needs of every student.

Unit Names:

This class will work through a variety of physical activities and games.

Units/skills:

- fitness exercises
- stretching
- body weight circuits
- running
- disc golf
- basketball
- volleyball
- tennis
- yard games
- soccer
- bowling
- badminton

The units of this course will change yearly as it will be ***modified to benefit every student*** in the class.

Main Course Concepts/Skills/Topics to be taught:

Non PE concepts/skills: Inclusion, leadership, friendship, working together, life skills, communication, etc.

PE concepts/skills: Skills all students can use throughout a lifetime. Fitness activities, games, sportsmanship, proper warmup/technique, etc.

Any estimated costs: Right now, we have plenty of equipment needed for our current students. That may change in the future depending on class sizes and the needs of each individual student.

Unified PE Curriculum Map

	UNITS	PACING	Standards (SHAPE America)	Know and Be Able to Do	Summative
RECREATION 3x/week	Yard Games	2-3 Weeks	<p>Standard 3: The physically literate individual develops social skills through movement.</p> <p>Standard 4: The physically literate individual develops personal skills, identifies personal benefits of movement, and chooses to engage in physical activity.</p>	<p>Skill 1: Exhibits proper etiquette, respect for others, and teamwork while engaging in physical activity. (3.12.2)</p> <p>Skill 2: Applies best practices for participating safely in physical activity (e.g., injury prevention, spacing, hydration, use of equipment, implementation of rules, sun protection). (3.12.6)</p> <p>Skill 3: Identifies and participates in physical activity that positively affects health. (4.12.3)</p>	Rubric for Skills Learned
	Volleyball	2-3 Weeks			
	Fitness Testing	2 Weeks (2x per year)			
	Basketball	2-3 Weeks			
	Soccer	2-3 Weeks			
	Bowling	2-3 Weeks			
	Pickleball	2-3 Weeks			
	Badminton	2-3 Weeks			
	Tennis	2-3 Weeks			
	Disc Golf	2-3 Weeks			
Repeated Favorite Units	4 Weeks				
FITNESS 2x/week	Fitness Activities - 2x per week all year Activities may include: Stretching Body weight circuits Running / cardio activities Strength exercises Yoga	2x per week all year	<p>Standard 2: The physically literate individual recognizes the value of physical activity for health, enjoyment, challenge, self-expression & social interaction.</p>	<p>Skill 4: Engaging in different types of strength and stretching exercises for personal fitness development (3.9)</p>	Rubric for Skills Learned



Geneseo High School- New Course Proposal

State Course Code: 03051A000

Name of Course: Foundations in Biology

Targeted Grade Level/s and Students: 9th grade students

Any Prerequisites: No - Teacher recommendation

Is this course an elective? - No- all 9th grade students will take a biology course. This is one of the options.

Rationale for the new course: To enhance the biology curriculum at the high school level and better meet the diverse needs of students, we recommend adding a **Foundations in Biology** course alongside the existing Regular Biology and Advanced Studies Biology classes.

Differentiation for Diverse Learning Needs:

The Foundations in Biology course would serve as an introductory option for students who may benefit from a foundational exploration of biology concepts. This will cater to students who may not feel ready for the rigor of Biology or Advanced Studies Biology but still need a strong grasp of biological principles for graduation and post-secondary readiness. Students will be supported by offering smaller, co-taught classes with more academic support.

Description of Course:

Biology courses are designed to provide practice and learning opportunities in the fundamental concepts of life and life processes. These courses include, but are not restricted to, such topics as cell structure, function and reproduction, genetics, evolution, ecology, adaptations and interactions among living organisms in real-world applications and problems in which students develop scientific process skills.

Unit Names:

- Animal Behavior and Inheritance
- Macromolecules
- Ecology
- Cell Structure and Function
- Patterns of Inheritance
- Molecular Genetics
- Natural Selection

Main Course Concepts/Skills/Topics to be taught: This course would prioritize essential biological topics as shown above with a focus on Science and Engineering Practices. An emphasis will be placed on skill-building (e.g., critical thinking, scientific inquiry, and study habits) to prepare students for success in future science courses and post-secondary success.

Any estimated costs: minimal