

Honors Earth Science

Fall 2025

Teacher: Mr. Allison

Semester: Fall 2025

Course Description

Honors Earth Science is an advanced course designed for students to explore the dynamic systems of our planet and beyond. Students will study topics in geology, meteorology, oceanography, astronomy, and environmental science, with an emphasis on scientific inquiry, critical thinking, and laboratory and field skills. The course integrates real-world applications and current scientific research, preparing students for further study in environmental sciences.

Major Topics Covered

- Scientific Method & Experimental Design
- Minerals & Rocks (classification, identification, formation)
- Plate Tectonics & Earth's Internal Structure
- Earthquakes & Volcanoes
- Surface Processes (weathering, erosion, deposition)
- Freshwater & Groundwater Systems
- Oceans & Coastal Processes
- Weather & Climate
- Astronomy (solar system, stars, galaxies, universe)
- Earth's History & Geologic Time
- Natural Resources & Energy
- Human Impact on Earth Systems

Grading Scale (10-Point Scale)

- **A:** 90–100
- **B:** 80–89
- **C:** 70–79
- **D:** 60–69
- **F:** Below 60

Grade Categories

- **Classwork:** Daily assignments, participation, and discussion activities
- **Projects:** Individual and group research or creative projects
- **Labs:** Hands-on laboratory and field work, reports, and analysis
- **Exams:** Unit tests assessing major concepts and skills

- **Final Exam:** Worth 25% of the course grade

If at any point your grade falls below an 80%, you will be required to attend AEO until the grade improves.

Class Expectations

- **Tardies & Absences:** Will be addressed according to school board policy. Students are responsible for making up missed work.
- **Preparedness:** Bring all required materials daily (notebook, writing utensil, iPad, etc.).
- **Respect:** Show respect for classmates, the teacher, and the learning environment.
- **Participation:** Engage fully in class discussions, labs, and activities.

Cell Phone Policy

In accordance with **North Carolina law** and school policy, cell phones are **not to be accessed during instructional time**. All devices must remain off or silenced and stored away unless use is authorized by the teacher for instructional purposes.

Materials Needed

- Notebook or binder with dividers (only if you want to take physical notes on paper)
- Pens/pencils (only if you want to take physical notes on paper)
- iPad (charged daily)

Contact Information

- **Email:** rallison@haywood.k12.nc.us
- **Planning Period:** 2:20–3:30 M, T, Th, F
- **AEO:** Tuesday 12:10–12:40, Thursday and Friday 11:30–12:50