

Course Outlines 2012

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Subject and Level:

Environmental Studies and Resource Management **Level 1**

Course Prerequisites:

Nil.

There are no fees, but there will be a two – three day field trip plus another half-day field trip which will incur costs

Aims:

By studying this course students will be able to recognize the responsibilities they have in relation to other people, the environment, and the long-term sustainability of the planet. Students will gain knowledge, skills and experience to:

- Understand that natural and cultural environments have particular characteristics;
- Understand how environments are shaped by processes that create spatial patterns;
- Understand how people interact with natural and cultural environments and that this interaction has consequences ie, causes and effects.
- Identify, investigate and problem-solve environmental issues.

Course Content:

This course is a response to the increasing need for people to be more aware of their environment and the changes that are occurring to and within it.

Topics covered will be:

- **“extreme natural events”**, focusing on the 2010 & 2011 Canterbury earthquakes and the 2011 Japan earthquake.
- **“the sustainable use of an environment”** focusing on the Waitaki basin/Mt Cook area
- **“the formation of surface features in NZ”** focusing on the same area as above
- **Beach management** as an example of a current NZ issue
- **“the Haves and Have-Nots”** which looks at world inequalities and how unsustainable this is, environmentally, socially, culturally and economically.
- **Monitoring the Opoho Stream** as an example of local environmental research.

plus geographic skills as these are an invaluable help to process information.

The course borrows aims, skills, ideas and knowledge from Geography, Earth Science and Education for Sustainability in order to give students a well-rounded and informed course which can stand alone or as a useful introduction for studying sustainable futures. Numeracy and literacy credits can also be gained from passing some standards.

Assessment:

The assessments are all level 1 Achievement Standards and are a combination of five internal and two external assessments, offering a total of 25 credits. All of the Achievement standards covered offer literacy credits, whilst two of them offer credits for numeracy (8 in total). Some of these offer scope to present your work in different formats (eg power-point or audio). Most internal assessments will be done in class, although there is opportunity for practical research.

See the Departmental policy on further assessment opportunities

Where can this take you?

Sustainability, the environment and resource management are the hot topics in today’s world. There is an increasing need for skilled, informed people to work in environmental affairs. These

include policy makers, resource planners (local and regional government), scientists, industrial research, climatology, hydrology, soil scientists, farmers and environmental consultants to name a few. A wide range of current environmental issues, from global warming to resource sustainability (e.g. oil, water), have created an increasing environmental awareness and many businesses (local and global) are now looking to employ “Green” technology. New Zealand is in a strong position to be a leader in this field, and people with a strong background and understanding of environmental issues will be in strong demand in the coming years.

Appeal procedures:

Consistent with school policy. First: classroom teacher; then HOD; then Assessment director.

Contact for further inquiries:

TIC : John Dixon. Email: jad@lphs.school.nz

Assessment chart:

AS No	Standard Title	Credits	Internal / External	Format	Indicative Date
91007	Extreme natural event & the human response	4	external	exam	
91010	Apply skills & ideas in a geographic context	4	external	exam	
91009	Sustainability of use of an environment	3	internal	Classroom exercise & field work	20-24 June
91011	Carry out & present directed research	4	internal	research	16-20 May
91012	Contemporary NZ issue	3	internal	Classroom exercise	29 Aug – 2 Sept
91013	Global geographic topic	3	internal	Classroom exercise	11 -12 Apr
90952	Formation of surface features in NZ	4	internal	Classroom exercise & field work	14-18 Mar