**Science Department Course Description and Policies**

Grade 12 Earth and Space Science – SES4U

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**Course Overview (Ministry of Education, The Ontario Curriculum – Science)**

This course develops students’ understanding of Earth and its place in the universe. Students will investigate the properties of and forces in the universe and solar system and analyse techniques scientists use to generate knowledge about them. Students will closely examine the materials of Earth, its internal and surficial processes, and its geological history, and will learn how Earth’s systems interact and how they have changed over time. Throughout the course, students will learn how these forces, processes, and materials affect their daily lives. The course draws on biology, chemistry, physics, and mathematics in its consideration of geological and astronomical processes that can be observed directly or inferred from other evidence. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Course code**: SES4U

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## Topics/Strands Credit Value: 1 Credit

* **Astronomy (Science of the Universe)**
* **Planetary Science (Science of the Solar System)**
* **Recording Earth’s Geological History**
* **Earth Materials**
* **Geological Processes**

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## Course Assessment & Evaluation (Consult The Aurora High Policy)

Student achievement will be assessed and evaluated based on the provincial standards, that is curriculum expectations as outlined in the secondary curriculum policy documents.

Teachers will ensure that evaluation strategies are designed to improve student learning, are fair, valid and reliable and are varied in nature to provide many opportunities for students to demonstrate the full range of their learning.

**Achievement Categories:**

**Knowledge/Understanding:** Subject content acquired and the comprehension of its meaning and significance.

**Thinking/Investigation:** Use of Critical and creative thinking skills and inquiry, research, and problem-solving skills and /or processes.

**Communication:** The conveying of meaning through various forms.

**Application:** The use of knowledge and skills to make connections within and between various contexts.

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| **Weightings** | **Achievement Categories** | **Mark Distribution** |
| **Cumulative Term Evaluation**  **(70%)** | **Knowledge & Understanding** | **21%** |
| Thinking | **14%** |
| **Communication** | **21%** |
| **Application** | **14%** |
| **Summative Evaluation**  **(30%)** | **Written Exam** | **30%** |

**STUDENT EXPECTATIONS**

**ATTENDANCE**:

* Regular attendance is essential for a successful semester. You will be required to produce a valid admit slip issued by the attendance office following an absence.
* Please notify the teacher of any anticipated absences.
* You are responsible for all work that is missed in this course, even if the class missed was due to a school related activity. Please check the online calendar and google site for updates. Also check classroom binder for missing handouts.

**HOME WORK & ASSIGNMENTS:**

* Homework is an integral part of the learning process and is one of the most important factors in your academic success.
* To help remember information, you could try writing out definitions, making concepts maps, preparing flash cards and asking someone in the family to test you.
* Review old and new material each night.
* All major assignments, including presentations, projects and independent study units must be completed in order to successfully complete the course requirements. Failure to hand in a major assignment could result in an “incomplete” course mark.
* Students who hand in late work are not developing appropriate work skills and will have the appropriate consequences applied.
* Teachers will set firm due dates for all assignments. If a student has not completed an assignment before the final deadline, a mark of zero may be given.

**EVALUATIONS**:

* At least a week notice will be given before a major test. You will be expected to write the test on the scheduled day, even if you have been absent during the previous periods.
* If you cheat or assist another student to cheat, you may receive a mark of zero for that test.
* Illegitimate absence from a test may result in a mark of zero. If you are absent from a test and have a legitimate reason, you may be required to write a make-up test upon return to class. It is the student’s responsibility to prove the absence is legitimate.

**LABORATORY WORK:**

* Follow safety rules and the written and verbal instructions for the lab.
* Students will be removed from the lab if safety rules are not followed.
* Respect all lab equipment and use the equipment properly. Broken equipment should be brought to the teacher’s attention.

**FOOD, DRINKS, AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES:**

* Food and drinks are prohibited in the science classroom.
* Electronic devices (ipods, cell phones… ) should not be turned on during class time and are expected to be out of sight during class. **It is up to the teacher’s discretion when musical devices can be used.** No electronic devices can be used during evaluations nor during laboratory work.

**EXTRA HELP:**

* Extra help is available after school. Your Teacher will inform you of when and where.
* Science office Rm 320