



## Course Syllabus

**Course Title:** Earth and Space Science AB

**School Year:** 2024-2025

**Semester(s):** 1 and 2

**Grade Level(s):** 9, 10, 11, 12

**Course Day(s) and Times:** Mondays and Wednesdays, 4:00 - 5:00 pm PST

### Teacher Information

- **Name:** Clayton Lutz
- **Email:** [clay.lutz@brancheslearning.org](mailto:clay.lutz@brancheslearning.org)
- **Office Hours:** By appointment only
- **Branches Learning Main Office Number:** (323) 955-0114

### Class Materials -

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### Course Description

This inquiry-based Earth and Space Science course, aligned with Next Generation Science Standards, delves into Earth's dynamic systems and processes. The curriculum covers space, geology, atmospheric processes, and human impacts on Earth. Through hands-on projects and interactive lessons, students explore the rock cycle, plate tectonics, climate change, and the water cycle – fostering inquiry, observation, and evidence-based conclusions. Projects such as devising plans to mitigate natural disasters encourage creativity and problem-solving. Students gain valuable scientific insight for future endeavors by understanding Earth's complexities.

### Course Units

**Unit 1:** The Nature of Science & Introduction to Earth Science

**Unit 2:** Planet Earth

**Unit 3:** Earth's Minerals and Rocks

**Unit 4:** Tectonics, Geologic Activity of Earthquakes and Volcanoes

**Unit 5:** Earth's Fresh Water & Oceans

**Unit 6:** Atmospheric Processes, Weather & Climate

**Unit 7:** Weathering, Soils, Erosion & Deposition

**Unit 8:** Understanding & Exploring Earth's History

**Unit 9:** Evolution and Populations

**Unit 10:** Eco systems

**Unit 11:** History of Life on Earth

**Unit 12:** Earth's Energy

**Unit 13:** The Solar System and Beyond

### **Course Expectations:**

To experience the most success in this course, please review the assignments and reading before attending class. There will be opportunities to ask questions in class and through the email stated above. Attend class from a quiet place free of distractions for the meeting time. Have your materials ready, camera on, and be on time. There is an expectation that all participants will treat others politely, professionally and ask for help. There is a zero tolerance policy for plagiarism including AI works.

### **Grading Scale**

#### **High School, Grades 9-12**

- A = 90% -100%
- B = 80%-89%
- C = 70%-79%
- D = 60%-69%
- F = 0%-59%

Final grades are determined by the quality and completion of assignments, attendance, and participation.

### **Important Branches Learning Policy Information**

#### **Camera Policy**

Branches Learning requires students to keep their cameras on during live classes unless otherwise instructed by the teacher. Exceptions can be made in rare circumstances if the course teacher, supervising teacher (HST), and the parent all approve a camera waiver.



### **Headset Policy**

Students attending live classes from a shared space must have a headset with a microphone to ensure the class is not disrupted by background noise.

### **Attendance Policy**

Absences must be reported to the course instructor via email or sent to [info@brancheslearning.org](mailto:info@brancheslearning.org). Class recordings are available upon requests.

Attendance and participation are part of the final grade. Students who miss more than 40% of live classes may fail the course. Exceptions may be made if a pre-approved plan is in place.

### **Late Work**

Assignments turned in after the due date will result in a lower grade unless pre-approved by the instructor.