**AP Environmental Science 2010-2011**

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**Class** **Website**: <http://fchsapes.weebly.com>

**Course Description**

AP Environmental Science (APES) is a laboratory and field-based course designed to provide students with the content and skills needed to understand the various interrelationships in the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems, and to propose and examine solutions to these problems. The course is intended to be the equivalent of a one-semester college environmental science course. The course encompasses human population dynamics, interrelationships in nature, energy flow, resources, environmental quality, human impact on environmental systems, and environmental law.

**Course Prerequisites**

Biology and Chemistry

**Resources**

* Online Textbook – *The Habitable Planet* (Annenberg Media) <http://www.learner.org/courses/envsci/index.html>
* Online Reading – Enviroliteracy (Environmental Literacy Council) <http://enviroliteracy.org>
* Other Resources – *The Cartoon Guide to the Environment* (Larry Gonick and Alice Outwater), *Cracking the AP Environmental Science Exam* (Princeton Review – Random House), *AP Environmental Science* (Barron’s)
* Other resources will be used throughout the year. Most will be available on the class website.

**Materials**

binder, notebook (with 3 holes), flash drive, writing utensils, calculator, internet access

**Expectations**

* BE PREPARED! Complete all assignments and assigned reading on time. Bring materials to class.
* Come to school. Be on time. School attendance policy applies to all students.
* Participate! Ask questions, be a part of discussions, provide input.
* Be respectful to instructor, classmates, supplies, the earth, etc.
* Be safe. Follow all lab safety procedures and rules for field work. Work carefully in the lab and in the field.
* All school rules apply (dress code, cell phones, etc.)

**Course Structure**

reading, writing, laboratory work, field work, field trips, projects, presentations, research, discussions, videos

**Grades**

Tests/Quizzes – 50%

Labs/Field Work – 25%

Other Assignments – 25%

**Tests/Quizzes**

You will have a lot of quizzes over assigned reading material. There will be a test for each unit that consists of multiple choice questions and Free Response Questions (FRQs) that have been released from previous APES exams. The multiple choice questions will be from class assignments, reading, notes, and released APES exams. The AP Environmental Science exam is on Monday, May 2, 2011. The test is free for APES students so everyone is expected to take the test.

**Binder/Journal**

Please keep all completed work in your binder. Occasionally a college or university will ask to see your classwork before giving credit for the course. Keep all your work-in-progress and your notebook in your binder so you do not lose them.

Throughout the year, you will be keeping an “environmental journal”. You will receive a paper for each week’s entry. The entries are due at the beginning of class each Monday. Your graded journal entries need to go in your binder.

**Current Event Reports**

Each student will complete one current events report per semester. You can take articles from newspapers, magazines, or online publications. For each report, you need at least two articles concerning the same topic. Make sure your article is from a reliable source (i.e. NOT blogs or other opinion-based media). Present the information orally to the class (don’t read off the paper!) and hand in a printed copy of the articles. Your report only needs to be a few minutes long. Your classmates will provide feedback after your report. Your Current Event Reports Log needs to be completed for each report, including your own.

**Course Outline**

*Quarter 1*

* Introduction – 1 week
* Ecology – 4 weeks
* Water – 3 weeks
* Atmosphere – 1 week

*Quarter 2*

* Atmospheric pollution – 2 weeks
* Climate Change – 2 weeks
* Population – 5 weeks

*Quarter 3*

* Soil – 2 weeks
* Land – 3 weeks
* Geology – 1 week
* Energy – 3 weeks

*Quarter 4*

* Pollution – 1 week
* Sustainability/Environment & Society – 3 weeks
* Test Prep/Review – 3 weeks
* Post-Test Activities – 2 weeks