

# Advanced Placement Environmental Science

## APES Summer Assignment 2016

Welcome to Advanced Placement Environmental Science! I look forward to working with you as we endeavor to better understand the world around us. You will learn that the world around us is inter-connected and in a continuous balance. Anything that may perturb the balance of nature usually has an effect on humankind. Since humans alter their environment to suit their needs, humans are generally the cause of environmental degradation. In order for us to understand our environment and any changes humans have caused, we must be able to utilize any and all available scientific tools. Furthermore, environmental science has a social aspect; we must also consider the complex roles humans play, from economic and political to cultural and historical. Therefore, Environmental Science is an interdisciplinary science.

Your summer assignment is to get you thinking about the environment: what you know about the world around you and current environmental issues.

### **Assignment #1: APES Letter of Introduction via email (10 pts.)**

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It is very important for you to have internet access for this class. You will have to enroll onto turnitin.com for this course, be able to communicate with me by way of email, and be able to access my web site for information. Your first assignment is to email me and introduce yourself. Please tell me who you are and why you are taking this course. I also would like to know about your experience in biology class. What was your favorite part/subject of biology and why? Have you had a class that covered traditional aspects of Earth Science (e.g. climate/weather, Earth & rocks)? If so, did you enjoy it? Then tell about your outdoor/nature experiences. Have you gone camping? What do you enjoy about nature? Do you like animals, plants, insects, etc...? If your outdoor experience is limited to athletics, then tell me so. If you are a complete home-body, then tell me that too. Finally, close your letter by telling me what you hope to gain by taking this class. Your email is due by Sunday June 12, 2016.

### **Assignment #2: Current Events (20 pts. ea; total 100 pts.)**

In order to become more environmentally aware, you will need to become better informed. Your current event assignment attached is an effort to help you become familiar with current environmental issues. Your current event assignments are to be typed and submitted to turnitin.com. Each current event assignment has a different due date. The due dates are as follows: Current Event #1 due Sunday June 19; Current Event #2 due Sunday June 26, Current Event #3 due Sunday July 24, Current Event #4 due Sunday July 31, and Current Event #5 due Sunday August 7. If you submit late, I will deduct 10% per day after the due date. Alternatively, you may submit early. **Turnitin.com info: Class ID = 12705899 Password = APESsummer16**

### **Assignment #3: Geography & Maps (40 pts.)**

I would like to know what you know about the world around you. Everything in Environmental Science is connected and generally has a point of origin. While the effect may be as great as the globe, there is generally a particular location or region that is more affected than others. Therefore, geography is an important aspect of Environmental Science. I would like you to look up and explore your world by completing the map exercise. As you look up the information, go a step further and explore some of the web images for these areas, for example, look at images of the Atacama Desert, Caspian Sea, Great Barrier Reef, etc – but you pick your own unique areas. Type three one paragraph reflections based upon your three unique separate areas. Tell why you chose these areas & what is interesting. This assignment is due on the first day of class. I will deduct 10% for every day that it is late. If you fail to complete the assignment by the end of the first week of school, you will receive no credit.