

Welcome to APES (Advanced Placement Environmental Science). It is truly a course that I enjoy. I want to instill in you the same passion for environmental science that I have. There is also some information that I wanted to relay to you.

The first thing that I want to give you is information put together from the College Board (the organization in charge of putting together the AP program). This link gives you an overview of the course (units, topics covered, etc...):

<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/pdf/ap-environmental-science-course-a-glance.pdf?course=ap-environmental-science>

This link gives you an introduction to what the exam will look like:

<https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-environmental-science/assessment>

A few things to highlight from these links:

1. This is a course with a tremendous amount of information from a wide variety of disciplines that requires dedication and hard work on your part.
2. Biology, Physical Science (preferably Chemistry), and Algebra are prerequisites. I will work with the assumption that you have this background as I teach the course.
3. The course has the potential for a lot of fun hands-on activities. We will wade in a river, sail on a boat, dig holes in the woods, visit cemeteries, visit a water treatment plant and much more. The process of learning should be an adventure!

The culmination of the course is a 3 hour exam given in May (see my course outline for exact date). The exam is a nationally qualifying exam in Environmental Science and you are required to take the exam if you take the course. The cost is around \$90. Students with high scores often receive credit at the University for which they are applying. The University of Connecticut currently awards three credits for a 4 or 5. Unity College and Syracuse University (go Orange!) award three credits for a 3, 4 or 5. These are only examples as every school's policy is different.

This means that we will spend much time and effort preparing for the exam. Reviewing old exam questions and working on our ability to answer free response questions in a clear and concise manner will be emphasized. We will practice writing both through answering old free response questions and writing lab reports. I am giving few tests (only 2 or 3 each quarter) because I want to build up to the pressure that comes with taking the AP exam. So get serious now, if you don't work hard all year long you probably won't do very well on the exam.

You also have the opportunity to receive UCONN ECE credit for the course by taking the final and achieving an overall final grade of 70 or better. This can be an excellent possibility, especially for students nervous about performing on the AP exam.

I see myself as your coach. I want each of you to succeed and receive 5's on the AP exam in May. However, I cannot do the work for you; rather you must be self-motivated and hard working to do your best. I am willing to give my best to this class everyday and I expect the same from you. I hope you are excited about this great challenge!

Another topic is that of summer work. There are 5 summer work assignments:

- 1) Get a textbook from me before the end of school or in the guidance office once the summer has started.
- 2) Get on google classroom. The code is: **edvt2ce**
- 3) Read chapters 1, 2 & 20 in your textbooks and use the study guides to take detailed notes on the chapters. You will be tested on these three chapters during the first two weeks of school.
- 4) Find three current articles (major articles, not just a paragraph or two) in environmental science and write paragraph summaries for each. Email me if you are having a hard time finding articles. Environmental News Network, Worldwatch and National Geographic are good places to start.
- 5) Bring a non-perishable food item with you on the first day of school.

Enjoy the summer!

Mr. York

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