

## AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE 2010

“I intended to bring closer to people the grand and mute life of nature, that they might love it. I wanted to teach people to listen to the pulse of nature, to partake of the wholeness of life and not forget, under the pressure of their petty destinies, that we are not gods and have not created ourselves but are children of the earth, part of the cosmos.

I also wanted to teach people to find the sources of joy and life in the love of nature. I wanted to preach the pleasures of looking at nature, of wandering in it, and of taking delight in the present.

I wanted to let mountains, oceans, and green islands speak to you convincingly with their enticing tongues, and wanted to compel you to see the immeasurably varied and exuberant life blossoming and overflowing outside your houses and cities each and every day. I wanted you to feel ashamed of knowing more about foreign wars, fashions, and gossip than of the rivers flowing under your bridges, than of the forest and marvelous meadows through which your freeways speed. I hoped to teach you to be brothers and sisters to all living things.” -Hermann Hesse

These are my hopes for this class. We have wonderful opportunities for outdoor field work. We will continue our collaboration with UC Berkeley planting natives along Strawberry Creek. We will explore, journal, research and restore in wetlands and on the SF Bay, on local creeks, on the UC Campus and in Tilden Park; even on our own campus.

Our textbook is “Living in the Environment”, by G. Tyler Miller. It is an excellent book, written on a college level. “It treats environmental science as an interdisciplinary study, combining ideas and information from natural sciences (such as biology, chemistry, and geology) and social sciences (such as economics, politics, and ethics) to present a general idea of how nature works and how things are interconnected. It is a study of *connections in nature.*”

I am looking forward to working and learning with all of you.

### **GRADING:**

**Grading is on a point system.**

**Tests** count **200** points each. **Daily journals** count **5** points each.

**Study guide** for each unit is **50** points.

**Late work: 1 day late=50% off 2 days late=No credit**

**Work consistently throughout the semester.**

**Don't wait until the day before the test to do your study guide.**

**Be an active learner and participant in class.**

**Turn in your work on time for full credit.**

**There is no extra credit.**

**Calculating your grade:**

Divide your total points by total points possible and you will get a \_\_\_\_\_ percent. 90

**Class participation:** I love to hear from you and encourage exchange of ideas. If you're close to a higher grade (89%, for example), I will bump your grade up if you make a positive contribution to class discussion, and are very quiet when others are speaking.

There are **no make-ups** on tests. If you miss a test, your score is zero. This zero may be excused if two things are accomplished:

- 1) I sign your excused absence slip for a **full day's** absence.
- 2) I successfully reach your parent, and confirm that you had parental permission to miss the test day due to illness. This policy will hold for one test per semester only. I expect you to attend all test days. Your next test will count double.

**Study guides** and **journals** are due the day before the test.

They must be in **pen, and hand-written**. Through the chapter, write the questions in bold, answer the questions, and define any words in bold. Describe each figure; explain it in your own words. Your study guide will prepare you for the test.

You will keep a **journal** of your observations and reactions. Each day there will be a warm-up journal on the board. Write down the questions for full credit. Answer the questions and take notes on the day's lecture, activities and discussion.

**SYLLABUS:** During the fall semester, we will study environmental problems and ecological principles. **Study guides and journals are due the day before each test date. Mark these test dates.** No make-ups!

		TEST DATE (Fridays)
Ch. 1&2	Environment, sustainability and environmental history	September 17
Ch. 4.1-4.5	Ecology and ecosystems	October 1
Ch. 4.6-4.8&3	Cycles and Soils	October 15
Chapter 5	Evolution and Biodiversity	October 29
Chapter 6	Biomes	November 19
Chapter 7	Aquatic Biodiversity	December 8(Wed.)
Chapter 8	Community Ecology	January 7
Ch. 9&10	Population Ecology and final	January 26,27,28