

Is AP Environmental Science Right for Me?

This question is running through your brain, otherwise you wouldn't be looking at this info sheet. To help you determine an answer to this question, complete this brief questionnaire:

Question 1: Are you: _____ living _____ non-living?

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Question 2: You are _____, are not _____ a resident of planet Earth?

.....

Question 3: Do you (check all that apply) _____

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> breath air | <input type="checkbox"/> live in some form of shelter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> drink water | <input type="checkbox"/> use energy to cook, heat or light your home |
| <input type="checkbox"/> eat food | <input type="checkbox"/> use energy to get from place to place |
| <input type="checkbox"/> wear clothing | <input type="checkbox"/> enjoy living |

.....

Question 4: Which of the following are important for you to continue doing in the future (check all that apply)?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> breath clean air | <input type="checkbox"/> continue being able to cook, heat and light your home |
| <input type="checkbox"/> drink clean water | <input type="checkbox"/> continue to live in some form of shelter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> eat enough food to satisfy your nutritional needs | <input type="checkbox"/> continue to wear clothing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> continue being able to get from place to place | <input type="checkbox"/> continue being alive |

.....

Question 5: Are you concerned about any of the following (check all that apply)?

- whether or not Colorado will soon have beach front property?
- whether or not you will still be able to carve out some sick turns on the slopes in ten years?
- whether or not you'll be able to have a super green, manicured lawn when you are old and retired (because this is what retired people do)?
- whether or not the ozone hole will force us all to become mole people?
- whether or not Frankenfood will start the zombie apocalypse?
- whether or not recycling is really worth the extra step past the trash bin?
- whether or not global warming is a liberal conspiracy designed to crash our fossil fuel based economy?
- whether or not rolling coal on a Prius is a funny joke, or a dangerous pastime?
- whether or not throwing orange peels on the ground is composting or polluting?



"Why did I have to give bad kids all that coal?"



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If you checked ANY of the blanks for ANY of the questions in the questionnaire, then Environmental Science IS right for you!

Anyone who is a resident of our planet, permanently or temporarily on an intergalactic visa, should be concerned about the environment! Unfortunately not enough of us are, and that spells bad news for our planetary life support system. We take for granted how closely tied we are with nature (even if you have never stepped foot off pavement), and how completely dependent we are on a healthy planet in order to continue our collective existence. We can live sustainably on this planet! In order to do it we need more Loraxes and fewer Oncelors. **Be a Lorax, Take Environmental Science!**

**"UNLESS SOMEONE LIKE YOU
CARES A WHOLE AWFUL LOT,
NOTHING IS GOING TO GET BETTER.
IT'S NOT."**

-THE LORAX



What is APES? Environmental Science studies how ecosystems work, and how humans' use of resources affects this.

Course Overview: Environmental Science is interdisciplinary, embracing topics from geology, biology, environmental studies, environmental science, chemistry, and geography.

Prerequisites: APES is open to any Junior or Senior completed his/her last science class (Biology or Chemistry) with a **B or higher**. Students who are successful in APES have the following characteristics: self-motivated, hard-working, self-directed, and interested in the environment. The material we cover is not as technical as that for AP Bio., AP Chem., or AP Physics, but is no less demanding on your time and commitment. ***This is not a course for slackers!!!!***

Course Topics: Earth Systems and Resources (plate tectonics, formation of fossil fuels, etc); The Living World (how ecosystems work); Population; Land and Water Uses (agriculture and urban development); Energy Resources and Consumption (renewable and non-renewable); Pollution (air, land, and water); and Global Change (climate change, ozone hole, fishery depletion).

Major Themes of the Course: 1) The Earth is one interconnected system; 2) Humans alter natural systems; 3) Environmental problems have a cultural and social context; 4) Human survival depends on developing practices that will achieve sustainable systems.

Lab Requirement: There is no 25% of class time spent on labs requirement for this course like the other AP science courses. We will do many labs and field investigations; most likely in the 25% of class time range.

I hope to see you in the fall!

- Ms. Yagow