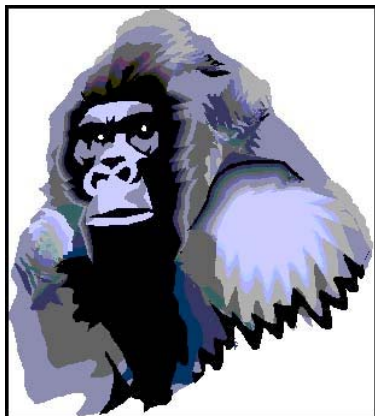


Advanced Placement Environmental Science Course Outline
El Diamante High School - Mr. Miller (lmiller@vusd.org)



Brief Description of Course: This is an advanced placement course designed to prepare the student for the AP Environmental Science exam. This yearlong elective course, which utilizes a college-level text, details the environmental constraints which humankind confronts and describes actions that can be taken in order to cope successfully with them. A deeper understanding of and appreciation for nature is developed through discussions regarding ecological principles, population, conservation, pollution, natural resources and other issues. The class utilizes a college-seminar approach in which students discuss and answer questions in-class from assigned out of class reading or research. The laboratory section of the course is geared to each student developing problem-solving skills and working as part of a research team. The class is complemented by local field trips and prepares students for college courses on environmental issues. Students will have the opportunity to take the Advanced Placement Exam in the spring.

Since passing the AP exam may qualify the student to by-pass a semester of a first-year college environmental science course, AP Environmental Science should not be considered "college prep." Rather, this is a college class, with college level expectations for behavior, participation and effort. Students will be required to do extensive reading and writing.

Course Organization:

UNIT	TITLE	CHAPTERS	TEST
1	Introduction to APES and Environmental Laws	1, 2, 24, 25	8/27
2	Ecosystems, Energy Flow and Natural Biogeochemical Cycles	3	9/17
3	Climate, Terrestrial and Aquatic Biodiversity	5, 6	10/5
	First Cumulative Review Test	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 24, & 25	10/8
4	Evolution and Biodiversity	4, 7	10/29
5	Sustaining Biodiversity	10, 11, & 12	11/16
6	Environmental Hazards and Human Health	18	12/6
	Second Cumulative Review Test	1 – 7, 10 – 12, 18, 24, 25	12/17
7	Water and Water Pollution	14, 21	1/21
8	Population	8, 9	2/11
9	Sustainable Cities and Waste	22, 23	3/4
	Third Cumulative Review Test	1 – 12, 14, 18, 21 – 25	3/9
10	Geology and Energy Resources	15, 16, & 17	3/22
11	Food, Soil, and Pest Management	13	4/8
12	Air Pollution and Global Climate Change	19, 20	4/22
	FINAL Cumulative Review Test	ALL	4/28
	AP Exam		5/11
13	Green Design and Construction		

Grading: Point values will be given to graded assignments such as tests, quizzes, and lab reports. There will be no supplemental extra-credit assignments what-so-ever. Grades will be assigned according to VUSD's standard grading practice.

A = 90% and up | B = 80% | C = 70% | D = 60% | F = Less than 60%

It is my practice to give tests in the same format as the AP exam, with a Multiple Choice section comprising 60% of the available points, and a "free response" section comprising 40% of the available points. Tests will be timed, with a 50-minute time limit being the norm. There are no retakes of tests or quizzes; each grade is final.

Laboratory Component: Laboratory investigations are designed to complement the "indoor classroom" portion of the course by providing opportunities to learn about our environment through firsthand observations, to test concepts and principles which have been introduced in this class, to explore specific issues and problems in greater depth, and to gain an awareness of the importance of confounding variables which exist in the real world. These labs will invite students to think critically, to observe environmental systems, to develop and conduct well-designed experiments, to utilize presentations, to think analytically and apply concepts to the solution of environmental problems, to form conclusions and to evaluate their quality and validity, to propose further questions for study and to communicate accurately and meaningfully about observations and conclusions. Meaningful laboratory work is important in fulfilling the requirements of a college-level course of a laboratory science and in preparing a student for further science courses in college. Because professors at some institutions ask to see a record of the laboratory work done by an AP student before making a decision about granting credit, placement, or both, in the science programs, students need to keep a notebook of their laboratory work that can be readily reviewed.

Policies: Unless otherwise specified, all assignments are to be done individually. Students who copy work from others, or allow their own work to be copied are guilty of cheating. Falsifying laboratory results is also cheating. I will follow the VUSD policies regarding cheating. **Late work is not accepted.** Students who are legally absent have two days to make up an assignment for every day they were absent. After that time period, the assignment is late and cannot be submitted for a grade.

I do not anticipate having behavior problems in a class such as AP Environmental Science. It is my philosophy to extend to you both my respect and my greatest effort as an instructor. I ask only for the same in return, both for myself and for your classmates.

Citizenship Guidelines: District policy states that teachers will assign a citizenship grade to students on report cards. Choices for the citizenship marks include "Outstanding," "Satisfactory," "Needs Improvement," and "Unsatisfactory". Students receiving two or more unsatisfactory citizenship marks from their instructors in a given grading period are ineligible for extracurricular activities for a period of at least six weeks.

District policy states that the following criteria shall be used in determining a student's citizenship mark in his/her class:

- 1 Attends class regularly
- 2 Comes to class on time. Five (5) or more unexcused tardies in a quarter will result in an unsatisfactory citizenship mark.
- 3 Comes to class with necessary materials.
- 4 Completes homework assignments.
- 5 Meets deadlines.
- 6 Does his/her own work when independent work is required; does not cheat.
- 7 Exercises reasonable care of school property.
- 8 Shows respect for others.
- 9 Does not disrupt class; exercises good conduct.

Materials for Class: Students will check out a Miller *Living in the Environment* textbook through the school library, and are accountable to the library for damage or loss of the textbook. Students are responsible for having paper, pens, and a #2 pencil.

Assistance: I am available for help during my published office hours. Office hours are Monday and Wednesday at lunch and Tuesday and Thursday before school. My school email address is lmiller@vusd.org. Feel free to email me anytime.

I maintain an Internet web site as a resource for our APES students. At the site you will find the assignment calendar, unit study guides, chapter outlines, and labs. Most of the documents are in Adobe PDF format, for which you will need to download a free viewing application. There are links from the site to the Adobe web site if you do not have this software. Students who do not have Internet access at home may gain Internet access through our learning resource center in the library. The website is located on the El Diamante High School server linked under the academics tab (<http://www2.visalia.k12.ca.us/eldiamante/teachers/lmiller>).