

# AP Environmental Science

## Summer Assignment 2009

Environmental science is a very comprehensive course. It is perhaps one of the toughest AP exams offered by College Board®. For this reason I ask you to begin your studies over the precious few weeks you have off for summer.

Requirements, Supplies and Basic info;

- Withgott & Brennan (2007) *Environment: The Science Behind The Stories-2ed.*  
Pearson Education, Inc. Upper Saddle River, NJ
- Text is available online @ [www.phschool.com/access](http://www.phschool.com/access) Enter Access Code: SSNAST-PLUNK-UPEND-KANZU-DOLBY-LUTES
- Supplementary (free) material for this course can be found @ [www.enviroliteracy.org](http://www.enviroliteracy.org) and at [www.annenbergmedia.org](http://www.annenbergmedia.org) this site requires a registration for access. It is free. Some materials on this site are copy write protected, particularly the videos. You may view them via live streaming, but **do not** download them! The program title is “The Habitable Planet.”
- Concept maps will be required for this course. You can use the link below to download a free concept mapping tool. <http://cmap.ihmc.us/download/>
- A portfolio is required for this course. Physical form is up to you, but all content must be both present and presentable with numbered pages and a table of contents
- Your introduction to research in the biological sciences will take place on a 3-day/2 night working class trip to the University of Connecticut Campus in Groton, Ct. We will conduct research aboard a real oceanic research vessel operated by Project Oceanology. **A \$50 deposit will be required** before this school year has ended, balance (*estimated* to be an additional \$100) to be paid in September. Visit [www.oceanology.org](http://www.oceanology.org) for more info. Tentative dates are for a weekend in Sept/Oct with a Mon or a Fri. Precise dates TBA at end of July.

## Summer Assignment

**Read and create concept maps for chapters 1 through 4 of Part I in Withgott.** These chapters encompass the basic pre-requisite science/social studies background info you may have already learned in other courses. Remember, less (text) is more when drawing a concept map.

Concept maps will be due *after* the first week of school. Additionally, there will be a *diagnostic* exam (M/C) based upon the summer assignment early upon our return (date TBA). The test will be a fair assessment of your efforts this summer, covering basic concepts only. It is basically for me to use as an assessment of your skills and as a gauge of your initiative.

**Advanced Warning!** My lateness policy is very strict. **All** Late assignments w/o **valid** extenuating circumstances are 50% off! Example of a valid, extenuating circumstance; 1) you were stuck in traffic around the rings of Saturn while on the space shuttle. 2) You're CIA contact was captured conducting a "black op" in Siberia and had the only set of keys for the Jet Ski. 3) Documentable family emergency backed up with a parental note. *If you have a printer/computer sob story; save it for the "Geek Squad®."*

We will be conducting some long-term environment studies and since many of you will be travelling this summer, and even if you are not, there is something I wish for you to document with a photo or some notes. This will be a standing order for the year. Nothing is due in September on this.

Everywhere we look today, every product, every business and literally everywhere in advertising we see the term "Green" applied. What I want to know is this; is all this "greening" actually happening or is it just propaganda? Is it a massive ad campaign to make it seem like something is being done? Are we being duped?

Keep your eyes and ears open for truths, contradictions and consequences.

**Have a great summer. I am looking forward to working with all of you.**

Any questions? Email me at [pcohen@sfponline.org](mailto:pcohen@sfponline.org) or [pmc2411@gmail.com](mailto:pmc2411@gmail.com) both go directly to my iphone.