

SUMMER ASSIGNMENT FOR AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE 2022-2023

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Dear Students,

I have chosen a list of books that are well known and pertain to this course. As we go through the course you will find yourself thinking about what you read and relate it to what we are learning.

All books are available to borrow through the Hillsborough County Public Library Cooperative <https://hcplc.bibliocommons.com>. You will need to sign up for an account and get a library card <https://hcplc.org/account/get-a-card>. Used books, kindle and audiobook formats are available to purchase on <https://www.amazon.com>.

Your Task: DUE FRIDAY August 19th

Choose one of the following books. After reading the book, prepare a summary of the most important points and takeaway messages. You may choose how to present your book summary, (as a slideshow, a video, a written report etc.) but it should include the following components:

- A brief description of how the book is organized
- An overview of the most important points discussed
- A few specific examples of what you found most interesting
- A few specific examples of how you might apply these lessons in your own life, and/or a discussion of why you would not
- A personal evaluation of the book...would you recommend it to others? Why or why not?

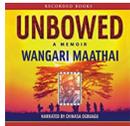


[The Serengeti Rules: The Quest to Discover How Life Works and Why It Matters](#)

by Sean B. Carroll

Amazon Summary:

How does life work? How does nature produce the right numbers of zebras and lions on the African savanna, or fish in the ocean? How do our bodies produce the right numbers of cells in our organs and bloodstream? In *The Serengeti Rules*, award-winning biologist and author Sean Carroll tells the stories of the pioneering scientists who sought the answers to such simple yet profoundly important questions and shows how their discoveries matter for our health and the health of the planet we depend upon.

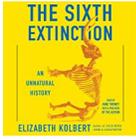


[Unbowed: A Memoir](#)

by Wangari Maatha

Amazon Summary:

In *Unbowed*, Nobel Prize winner Wangari Maathai recounts her extraordinary journey from her childhood in rural Kenya to the world stage. When Maathai founded the Green Belt Movement in 1977, she began a vital poor people's environmental movement, focused on the empowerment of women, that soon spread across Africa. Persevering through run-ins with the Kenyan government and personal losses, and jailed and beaten on numerous occasions, Maathai continued to fight tirelessly to save Kenya's forests and to restore democracy to her beloved country. Infused with her unique luminosity of spirit, Wangari Maathai's remarkable story of courage, faith, and the power of persistence is destined to inspire generations to come.

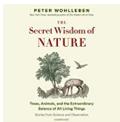


[The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History](#)

by Elizabeth Kolbert

Amazon Summary:

Through these stories, Kolbert provides a moving account of the disappearances occurring all around us and traces the evolution of extinction as concept, from its first articulation by Georges Cuvier in revolutionary Paris up through the present day. The sixth extinction is likely to be mankind's most lasting legacy; as Kolbert observes, it compels us to rethink the fundamental question of what it means to be human.

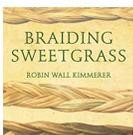


[The Secret Wisdom of Nature: Trees, Animals, and the Extraordinary Balance of All Living Things--Stories from Science and Observation](#)

by [Peter Wohlleben](#)

Amazon Summary:

In *The Secret Wisdom of Nature*, master storyteller and international sensation Peter Wohlleben takes readers on a thought-provoking exploration of the vast natural systems that make life on Earth possible. In this tour of an almost unfathomable world, Wohlleben describes the fascinating interplay between animals and plants and answers such questions as: How do they influence each other? Do lifeforms communicate across species boundaries? And what happens when this finely tuned system gets out of sync? By introducing us to the latest scientific discoveries and recounting his own insights from decades of observing nature, one of the world's most famous foresters shows us how to recapture our sense of awe so we can see the world around us with completely new eyes.



[Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants](#)

by Robin Wall Kimmerer

Amazon Summary:

Drawing on her life as an indigenous scientist, and as a woman, Kimmerer shows how other living beings—asters and goldenrod, strawberries and squash, salamanders, algae, and sweetgrass—offer us gifts and lessons, even if we've forgotten how to hear their voices. In reflections that range from the creation of Turtle Island to the forces that threaten its flourishing today, she circles toward a central argument: that the awakening of ecological consciousness requires the acknowledgment and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world. For only when we can hear the languages of other beings will we be capable of understanding the generosity of the earth and learn to give our own gifts in return.