ENVS 185 EIA Fall 2015
Ada E. Márquez
Email: adaemarquez@gmail.com

Office Hours: Friday’s 12:30-3:30 pm
And Wednesday’s after 3:00 by appointment
During office hours, students may also call me to
discuss any questions or concerns.
WSQ 115B
Class Meets:
3-unit lecture: Friday’s 9:30 am-12:15 pm
Clark Bldg 316

1-unit Service Activity: 2 hours weekly (independent)

Course Description and Objectives

(Created by Dr. O’Malley):

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) laws are among the most powerful tools currently available to
identify and influence the environmental effects of human activities. These laws are soundly praised and
roundly criticized by city councils, developers, and environmental advocates alike, but the majority of the
public is simply unaware of the power these laws can give to the average citizen.

This course will teach you the basis for understanding, using and analyzing the California Environmental
Quality Act (CEQA), one of the first and most influential environmental impact laws on the books. We will
also become familiar with the federal impact assessment law, National Environmental Policy Act
(NEPA), and we will survey the state of international environmental impact assessment.

Through a combination of lecture, field and project work, we will learn to conduct introductory assessments
of the impacts of real projects on our air, water, traffic and wildlife.

In addition, this course incorporates community service. In the activity portion of the course, we will link
the project work we do with the needs of the local community.

Impact assessment requires careful study of information from multiple disciplines, and it covers many
environmental resources. Analyzing and producing environmental assessment documents requires significant
group work, perseverance, creativity and a lot of work. Remember this is a four-unit course! Buckle your
seatbelts (put on your bike helmets) for a challenging, but exhilarating, ride.

Department Learning Outcomes and Goals

This course will help you achieve these Departmental Learning Objectives, which are competencies we
expect all our graduates to have for success:

Department LO 1 - Content Environmental Literacy: Students are able to write a logical analytical
paper using good writing style and construction supported by appropriate research

Department LO 3 - Content Environmental Literacy: Students will develop proficiency in the
interdisciplinary sustainability principles that are the foundation of environmental studies; they will
know the key environmental challenges facing the planet, know relevant interdisciplinary information
about these challenges, and be able to develop/identify feasible solutions
Department LO 4A - Students are able to productively conduct group/team work to deliver professional quality presentations and reports

Department LO 4C - Build local environmental sustainability and democratic participation through community service

Prerequisites: ENVS 1 and ENVS 124, or graduate standing.


All other readings will be in the Spring15ENVS 185 Google folder.

Basic environmental law resources
www.law.berkeley.edu/library/dynamic/guide.php?id=47#toc4

Class Expectations:

1. Originality and honesty: It is appropriate to cite others’ work extensively, with attribution. It is never appropriate to use other authors’ language or ideas, from the web or from written documents, as though they were your own. If you have any questions about appropriate citation, please talk to me personally or write me a note. Misuse of written material can result in course failure.

2. Safe Classroom: We are all learning together here. Questions and comments about lectures or class materials are welcome anytime. Please use office hours for questions about grades or personal concerns. In addition, mutual respect and cooperation are fundamental. Inappropriate behavior or disrespect towards other students and the instructor will not be tolerated and expulsion from the class can occur after the first warning. Cell phones and laptops are not allowed during class time for personal use. Please notify the instructor for in class accommodations or you prefer to take notes with your laptop. Also, please refrain from eating during lectures unless we have enough for sharing.

3. Students with disabilities: If you need course adaptations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please see me during office hours or make an appointment. Presidential Directive 97-03 at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/ to establish a record of their disability.

4. Withdrawal policy: By Sept. 1st, you may drop a class without penalty. After that date, this can only be done through Counseling Services in the Administration Building, and only for serious and compelling reasons. Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester’s Catalog Policies section at http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic calendar web page http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/Academic_Calendars/. The Late Drop Policy is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes. Your instructor is not authorized to drop you after the drop date.

5. The 1- unit Service Activity: 2 hours weekly (independent): (JOURNAL #1)Students will attend a minimum of 4 government meetings. A minimum of two meetings must be attended at the agency’s building and the other two can be watched on-line. Students will take notes for approximately one hour and half and a minimum of 30 minutes answering the journal questions. (JOURNAL #2) The second half of the semester will be service-learning. Students will volunteer for environmental not for profit organizations for a minimum of 14 hours.
6. **Readings and Chapter Summaries:** Please expect to attend all lecture/discussions and complete all readings **before** the class period. Chapter and Reading notes/summaries will be based on readings from the CEQA textbook and per my syllabus under “REQUIRED”. The notes/summaries will be graded based on the quality/effort and photo copies of the pages will NOT be accepted for grading or credit. Completing the assigned readings will significantly improve your understanding of CEQA. ENVS 185 is a fast paced course and lecture time cannot cover everything.

7. **Group work:** Group points add up to 12% of your final grade. Group work is hard, and requires excellent follow through. Please try to know your limits and **don’t overcommit**.

8. **Field Trips:** One mandatory field trip will meet off campus during class time. PLEASE PUT IT IN YOUR CALENDAR TODAY. **IF students do not attend the field trip, the Initial Study assignment will be graded significantly lower (up to-15%).** I will try my best to schedule at least a couple of different dates and times.

9. **Questions:** At the end of most lectures, I will ask three questions about the course. These questions will help determine whether I have conveyed the information adequately in lecture, whether you are keeping up with and understanding reading assignments, and they will provide for direct feedback about what you are learning through your group’s lab/service assignment. They will count for participation, but will not be formally graded. **In-class assignments cannot be made up.**

   For the most rapid response, please post your questions about lectures, assignments and any other ENVS 185 materials, on the Google Document “ENVS 185 Questions and Discussion”. I will check this document every evening to answer your questions. Students may also help each other, but all deliverables must be completed independently without plagiarism.

10. **Draft documents:** As in real impact assessment, the drafting process and public presentation are taken very seriously. **First draft documents are worth more than double final drafts. In addition, I will not accept documents after the due date. All individual and group work will be due at the beginning of class.**

11. **Late Assignment Policy:** All assignments are due by the **beginning of class** on the deadline date. I will not accept any assignments at the end of the class period. Late assignments will be considered **ONLY** for legitimate circumstances, when arranged in advance, or with a doctor’s memo.

   **ENVS 185 emulates CEQA’s process and timeline.** Per CEQA’s Statutes and Guidelines, all environmental documents are required for submittal within regulations. Therefore, the instructor must enforce the same stringent requirements.

12. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to pick up any materials during my office hours or from ENVS 185 Google folder. I will not provide my curricula via email, unless you have medical documentation.

13. **Extra Credit:** There may periodically be opportunities to obtain extra credit for activities relevant to the subject. Such opportunities include analysis of newspaper stories, extra attendance at public hearings, and comments on EIRs. I will decide how many points any extra credit effort will be awarded on a case-by-case basis. Moreover, students can earn extra credit points by providing early drafts of their environmental documents. I will announce more information upon providing the assignment handouts.

**University Policies**

**Avoiding Plagiarism.** You must convey the information from the sources you use **totally in your own words.** This is paraphrasing. Be sure to always cite the source of your paraphrased information using in-text citations. If your paraphrase is close to the exact words used by another author or if, in fact, you use the exact words of an author without citing that author, then you are plagiarizing. Plagiarizing is a form of stealing and is a punishable offense at San Jose State University. Read the San Jose State University
Academic integrity
Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University’s Academic Integrity policy, located at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm, requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/.
Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person’s ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU’s Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 requires approval of instructors.

Citation Required in ENVS 185:
APA Style Lite for College Papers © Copyright 2010 by Dr Abel Scribe PhD.

Periodical Format
Author, F. M., Coauthor, F. M., & Collaborator, F. M. (Date). Title of the article in sentence caps without quotation marks [Notation]. Name of the Journal, Newspaper, or Other Periodical, Volume in Italics (issue number), [pp.] page numbers. doi:12.3456/abcd.123.45.6789

Corporate author. If a group is readily identified by an acronym, spell it out only the first time. For example,
"As reported in a government study (National Institute of Mental Health [NIMH], 2014) . . . ." The next citation gives just the initials and year, (NIMH, 2014).
(United Nations [UN], 1999) Next Cite: (UN, 1999, p. 123)

E-documents. When quoting electronic documents without page numbers, cite paragraph numbers if given, after the paragraph symbol or abbreviation para. (e.g., Smith, 2000, ¶ 17). If there are no paragraph numbers, cite the nearest preceding section heading and count paragraphs from there (e.g., Smith, 2000, Method section, para. 4).

Book Format
Author, F. M., & Coauthor, F. M. (Date). Title of the book or report in sentence caps and italics (Xth ed.). Place of publication, State: Publisher.
Author, F. M., & Coauthor, F. M. (Date). Title of the book or report in sentence caps and italics (Xth ed.). Place of publication, State: Publisher.
five hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

Policy S12-7
“Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor’s permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”

S12-7
“Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”

Grading will be based on the following criteria: 

| TOTAL % | 
| CEQA Textbook Summaries | =8% |

Service section

| = | 
| Meeting Plan | 1 |
| Journals (1-3) | 12 |

♦ Notice of Exemption assignment
= 1%

♦ Initial Study/Neg Dec
Draft IS = 20***
Final IS/ND = 8
*Extra Credit for Early Draft(s) {bring to class} = 28%

♦ EIR Sections
Individual Alternative = 3
Contract (Group) = 2
Individual Draft = 15***
Final Draft (Group) = 15
AND Revised contract (Group)
Presentation = 5
= 40%

♦ Participation
= 10%
= 100% 

GRADING
97 – 100% A+
91 - 96 A
89 - 90 A-
87 - 88 B+
81 - 86 B
77 - 78 C +
71 - 76 C
68 - 70 C-
66 - 67 D+
60 - 65 D
56 - 59 D-
55 or below F

5
**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** Late Deliverables/Assignments are NOT accepted in EIA. ALL DELIVERABLES/ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE BY 9:30 am (All previous syllabus pages apply)

**COURSE OUTLINE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITH FAIR NOTICE)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASS DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>REQUIRED READINGS—COMPLETED BEFORE LECTURE. RECOMMENDED READINGS ARE NOT REQUIRED AS PART OF YOUR “SUMMARIES” GRADE, BUT STUDENTS CAN EARN EXTRA CREDIT EACH Week. Please also see corresponding web sources links for each Lecture/resource area.</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS</th>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
AND WILDLIFE:
Biogeographic Data Branch
California Natural Diversity Database
http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/

STATE & FEDERALLY LISTED ENDANGERED & THREATENED ANIMALS OF CALIFORNIA
January 2015  www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/plants_and_animals.asp

Web: http://www.opr.ca.gov/s_infilldevelopment.php
CEQA Streamlining for Infill Projects (SB 226)
http://www.opr.ca.gov/s_sb226.php
City of San Jose General Plan EIR (for existing conditions and cumulative impacts)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sept. 18</th>
<th>Field Trip (Prepare and read field trip notes)</th>
<th>REQUIRED B, B &amp; R Ch. 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ Deliverable Due Sept. 18</td>
<td>Public Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reading/Summaries</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>#1  1) California Planning Guide: An Introduction to Planning in California. (2005). (Take notes up to p.12): 2)B, B &amp; R Ch. 1 AND 2; &amp; Ch. 3; Ch. 4{via email attachment or in a notebook}</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Sept. 25 | □ Public Comments/ public review  
          □ Archaeological resources  
          □ Historic resources  
          □ Course evaluation 1 | REQUIRED B, B & R Ch. 6  
In-Class Assignment be prepared: Read Brookside Estates: SCV Audubon Society Appeal Letter  
*California Public Resources Code 21083.2. Archeological Resources*  
[http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=21721](http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=21721)  
[http://tribal.govtaffairs.ca.gov/Resources/](http://tribal.govtaffairs.ca.gov/Resources/)  
Determining the Significance of Impacts to Archaeological and Historical Resources: California Environmental Quality Act Title 14; Chapter 3; Article 5; Section 15064.5 (*Ada’s google folder*)  
California Native American Heritage Commission (Laws, Local Ordinances & Codes)  
[http://nahc.ca.gov/codes/](http://nahc.ca.gov/codes/)  
*California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS)*  
[http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1068](http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1068)  
ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION:  
Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines  
[http://www.cr.nps.gov/local-law/arch_stnds_0.htm](http://www.cr.nps.gov/local-law/arch_stnds_0.htm)  
[http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/02/14/02-014.pdf](http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/02/14/02-014.pdf) | □ Due: Sept. 25  
Identify Service Learning Site  
□ Deliverable:  
Due: Sept. 25 Draft Initial study (20% of grade) {via Turn-It-In.com} |
| Oct. 2 | □ Traffic  
□ Noise | REQUIRED B B, B & R Ch. 6  
Transportation City of San Jose Design Guidelines)  
SEE NOISE APPENDIX for City of San Jose Existing Conditions  
Deliverable Due:  
Hand in Journal – Govt 4 meetings  
Due {via email attachment or notebook}  
□ Service Learning Site (total =14 hours for semester)  
Service Learning – 2 hr |
| Oct. 9 | □ AIR  
□ Greenhouse Gases/Climate Change | REQUIRED B, B & R Ch. 7  
Read BAAQMD CEQA Guidelines 2011 (p. 1-4; 2-1 to 2-7; 4-1 to 4-11) (Skim p. 3-1 to 3-5 and 5-1 to 8-6 and Appendix C)  
□ Deliverable:  
Deliverable DUE:  
□ Oct. 9 Final  
□ Service Learning – 2 hr |
| Oct. 16 | □ Envir. Impact Reports (EIRs) and Drafting Process  
□ WATER/Hydrology  
□ Geology | REQUIRED B, B & R Ch. 7  
□ CEQA and Low Impact Development Stormwater Design: Preserving Stormwater Quality and Stream Integrity Through (CEQA) Review  
http://www.opr.ca.gov/s_technicaladvisories.php  
□ Web: Water  
Earthquakes, Fire, Flood, Tsunami}  
http://myhazards.calema.ca.gov/  
GIS Hazards Mapping Tool  
http://myplan.calema.ca.gov/  
Hazard Mitigation Web Portal  
http://hazardmitigation.calema.ca.gov/ | Oct. 16**NEW**  
Assignment Team Draft EIR and Individual Alternative  
□ Deliverable:  
Due: Oct. 23  
Individual alternatives {bring to Class}  
□ And  
Reading/Summaries  
#2: B, B & R Ch. 6; B, B & R Ch. 7  
RECOMMENDED: CEQA Statutes and Guidelines 2014 (p. 142-157)  
**GeoTracker environmental data for regulated facilities in California (Interactive Map)  
https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/  
CalEnviroScreen Version 2.0 {EJ Mapping Applications and Data}  
http://www.calepa.ca.gov/EnvJustice/  
http://oag.ca.gov/environment/communities/justice  
MyEnvironment provides immediate access to a cross-section of environmental data for any geographical location in the U.S.  
http://www.epa.gov/myenvironment/  
CEQA and EJ  
http://oag.ca.gov/environment/communities/justice | Service Learning – 2 hr |
| Oct. 23 | □ Hazards  
□ Environmental Justice (EJ)  
□ Team Meeting to decide one Alternative | REQUIRED B, B & R Ch. 8  
Web:  
*GeoTracker environmental data for regulated facilities in California (Interactive Map)  
*https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/  
** CalEnviroScreen Version 2.0 {EJ Mapping Applications and Data}  
http://www.calepa.ca.gov/EnvJustice/  
***http://oag.ca.gov/environment/communities/justice  
**** MyEnvironment provides immediate access to a cross-section of environmental data for any geographical location in the U.S.  
http://www.epa.gov/myenvironment/  
CEQA and EJ  
http://oag.ca.gov/environment/communities/justice | □ Deliverable:  
Due: Oct. 23  
Individual alternatives {bring to Class}  
And  
Reading/Summaries  
#2: B, B & R Ch. 6; B, B & R Ch. 7  
AND Very Brief notes on BAAQMD CEQA Guidelines 2011 CEQA and Low Impact Development Stormwater Design: Preserving Stormwater Quality and Stream (Via email | Service Learning – 2 hr |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Required/Recommended Resources</th>
<th>Due</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 30</td>
<td>Population /Housing, City Services</td>
<td><a href="http://www.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/shzp/Pages/shmppgminfo.aspx">Guidelines for evaluating and mitigating seismic hazards in California 2008</a></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Via email attachment or in a notebook)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 6</td>
<td>Curriculum Catch - Up</td>
<td><a href="http://opr.ca.gov/docs/SB244_Technical_Advisory.pdf">Senate Bill 244: Land Use, General Plans, and Disadvantaged Communities (2013)</a></td>
<td>Deliverable Due: Nov. 6 Full Indiv. EIR Section {via turnitin.com}</td>
<td>Service Learning – 2 hr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 13</td>
<td>EIR Tiering, Cumulative impacts, Growth-inducing impacts</td>
<td><a href="http://opr.ca.gov/docs/specific_plans.pdf">RECOMMENDED: The Planner’s Guide to Specific Plans (2001)</a></td>
<td>Deliverable Due: Journal – 6 minimum hours service (goal=7) {via email attachment or bring to class}</td>
<td>Service Learning – 2 hr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 20</td>
<td>Envir. Impact Statements (EISs); Integrating with NEPA</td>
<td><a href="http://opr.ca.gov/docs/StrategiesforSustainableCommunities.pdf">RECOMMENDED: CEQA Statutes and Guidelines 2013 (p.177-187)</a></td>
<td>Deliverable DUE: Reading/Sumaries #3 B, B &amp; R Ch.9, 5, 10, and 11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 11</td>
<td><strong>note earlier start time and check final exam time against other classes</strong> Final Exam Time Friday, December 11</td>
<td>Deliverable DUE: Team Final EIR {No Later Than FRIDAY 5 PM}</td>
<td>Deliverable DUE: Journal 7-8 hours {via email attachment or notebook} Due: All Friday by 5 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>