

**San José State University**  
**College of Social Science/Geography**  
**Geography 1: Geography of the Natural Environment, Section 5, Fall 2015**

**Course & Contact Information**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Maureen Kelley
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<b>Office Hours:</b>	Mondays & Wednesdays 1045 to 1145 or by appointment
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	Mondays & Wednesdays 0900 to 1015
<b>Classroom:</b>	Clark Hall 224
<b>GE/SJSU Studies:</b>	Area B1: Physical Science

**Course Format**

Course lecture slides; assignments, and quizzes will be posted on the Geography 1 Canvas web pages. However, do not rely on the website to catch everything presented in class. This is only a baseline. Do not use the website as a crutch, as well, and only show up for the day that we are having in-class assignments.

**Course Description**

*Atmospheric, biologic and geologic processes that create the natural environments of the world. Discovery of local, regional and global patterns in the location and distribution of environmental phenomena, and the human modifications of natural environments.*

The purpose of this class is to provide students an introductory framework for a global understanding of our natural environment. The course is constructed on three related themes or modules: atmospheric processes and their variation above and at the earth's surface; landform and oceanic processes and their variation on a worldwide basis; dynamics of the biological world. The human influence will be explored throughout the course.

**Area B1 Goals**

Science is a continuous and adaptive process through which we discover and communicate how the natural world works, separate fact from inference, and establish testable hypotheses. All students should sufficiently master essential quantitative and qualitative skills that are necessary to understand scientific knowledge and methods. Students should be able to incorporate scientific knowledge into the workplace and everyday life experiences.

**General Education Learning Objectives (GELO)**

**GELO 1: Students will be able to use the methods of science and knowledge derived from current scientific inquiry in life or physical science to question existing explanations.**

- Readings: Chapters 1–Essentials of geography; 2–Solar energy; 3–Earth's modern atmosphere; 4–Atmosphere & surface energy balances; 5–Global temperatures; 6–

Atmospheric & oceanic circulation patterns; 7–Water & atmospheric moisture; 8–Weather; 9–Water resources; 10–Global climate systems; 11–Climate change; 12–The dynamic planet; 13–Tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes; 14–Weathering, karst, mass movement; 15–River systems; 16–Oceans, coastal systems, wind processes; 17–Glacial & periglacial landscapes; 18–Geography of soils; 19–Ecosystems landscapes; 20–Terrestrial biomes in textbook

- Assignments: Geography ID; 4–Earthquakes & landscape analysis
- Activities/Experiences: video: *Water properties explained—the Water Cycle*; video: *Are we changing planet Earth?*; Assign. 4–Earthquakes & landscape analysis
- Quizzes: 2–Atmosphere; 3–Water on Earth; 4–Tectonism & geomorphology; 5–Biogeography

**GELO 2: Students will be able to demonstrate ways in which science influences and is influenced by complex societies, including political and moral issues.**

- Readings: Chapters 1–Essentials of geography; 3–Earth’s modern atmosphere; 4–Atmosphere & surface energy balances; 8–Weather; 9–Water resources; 11–Climate change; 13–Tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes; 14–Weathering, karst, mass movement; 15–River systems; 16–Oceans, coastal systems, wind processes; 17–Glacial & periglacial landscapes; 18–Geography of soils; 19–Ecosystems landscapes; 20–Terrestrial biomes in textbook
- Assignments: Geography ID; 2–Surface energy & atmospheric gases; 4–Earthquakes & landscape analysis
- Activities/Experiences: video: *Water properties explained—the Water Cycle*; video: *Are we changing planet Earth?*; Assign. 4–Earthquakes & landscape analysis
- Quizzes: 1–Geography; 2–Atmosphere; 3–Water on Earth; 4–Tectonism & geomorphology; 5–Biogeography

**GELO 3: Students will be able to recognize methods of science, in which quantitative, analytical reasoning techniques are used.**

- Readings: Chapters 1–Essentials of geography; 2–Solar energy; 3–Earth’s modern atmosphere; 4–Atmosphere & surface energy balances; 5–Global temperatures; 6–Atmospheric & oceanic circulation patterns; 7–Water & atmospheric moisture; 8–Weather; 9–Water resources; 11–Climate change; 12–The dynamic planet; 13–Tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes; 14–Weathering, karst, mass movement; 15–River systems; 16–Oceans, coastal systems, wind processes; 17–Glacial & periglacial landscapes in textbook
- Assignments: Geography ID; 1–Introduction to Geography; 2–Surface energy & atmospheric gases; 3–Weather; 4–Earthquakes & landscape analysis
- Activities/Experiences: 1–Introduction to geography; video: *Water properties explained—the Water Cycle*; video: *Are we changing planet Earth?*; Assign. 4–Earthquakes & landscape analysis
- Quizzes: 1–Geography; 2–Atmosphere; 3–Water on Earth; 4–Tectonism & geomorphology; 5–Biogeography

## Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

At the end of the course students should be able to:

### CLO1: Demonstrate understanding of and ability to analyze spatial relationships

- Readings: Chapters 1–Essentials of geography; 2–Solar energy; 3–Earth’s modern atmosphere; 4–Atmosphere & surface energy balances; 5–Global temperatures; 6–Atmospheric & oceanic circulation patterns; 7–Water & atmospheric moisture; 8–Weather; 9–Water resources; 10–Global climate systems; 11–Climate change; 12–The dynamic planet; 13–Tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes; 14–Weathering, karst, mass movement; 15–River systems; 16–Oceans, coastal systems, wind processes; 17–Glacial & periglacial landscapes; 18–Geography of soils; 19–Ecosystem landscapes; 20–Terrestrial biomes in textbook
- Assignments: Geography ID; 2–Surface energy & atmospheric gases; 3–Weather; 4–Earthquakes & landscape analysis
- Activities/Experiences: video: *Water properties explained —the Water Cycle*; 3–Weather; video: *Are we changing planet Earth?*; 4–Earthquakes & landscape analysis
- Quizzes: 1–Geography; 2–Atmosphere; 3–Water on Earth; 4–Tectonism & geomorphology; 5–Biogeography

### CLO2: Define basic geographic tools and techniques

- Readings: Chapters 1–Essentials of geography; 4–Atmosphere & surface energy balances; 5–Global temperatures; 8–Weather; 11–Climate change; 13–Tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes in textbook
- Assignments: Geography ID; 1–Introduction to geography; 2–Surface energy & atmospheric gases; 3–Weather;
- Activities/Experiences: 1–Introduction to geography; 2–Surface energy & atmospheric gases; 3–Weather;
- Quizzes: 1–Geography

## Required Texts/Readings

### Textbook

Christopherson, Robert W & Birkeland, Ginger H. (2014). *Geosystems*, 9<sup>th</sup> ed. ISBN #9780321926982.

Students can buy or rent the textbook at the Spartan Bookstore. This text is also available as an e-text on coursesmart.com and for Amazon Kindle.

### Recommended Text

Veregin, Howard, ed. (2014). *Goode's world atlas*, 22<sup>nd</sup> ed. ISBN #9780321652003.

Students can buy the textbook at the Spartan Bookstore or other booksellers.

### Other materials

Students should have access to a computer system that has a raster paint program, such as Microsoft Paint, Apple Paintbrush, or Adobe Photoshop, because we will be digitally coloring maps. Students should also have access to or download Google Earth because we will be

performing landscape analysis as well. If you do not have access to the above, then see me for accommodations.

### **Course Requirements and Assignments**

SJSU classes are designed such that, in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of 45 hours for each unit of credit (normally three (3) hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in University Policy S12–3 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

NOTE that University policy F69–24 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf> states that “Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance *per se* shall not be used as a criterion for grading.”

### **Writing**

The minimum writing requirement for this course is 1,500 words in a language and style appropriate to the discipline. Please use the APA style for all papers in the class. Information and weblinks to APA style guidelines can be found on the Canvas website.

<b>Writing</b>	<b>Minimum Words</b>
Geography ID	600
Assign. 1	300
Assign. 2–4 (total word count)	300
Final Exam (2 essays)	300
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,500</b>

Writing will be assessed for clarity, accuracy and conciseness as well as content. The writing requirement will be met through a combination of homework, in-class writing assignments, and essays on the final exam.

Correct use of English is a fundamental requirement for your papers to be graded. If errors in English make it difficult for a grader to understand your sentences, or excessively slow down the grader to mark your technical errors, your paper will be marked down 10% of your overall grade. An excess of nine (9) errors per assignment will warrant a 10% reduction. The first 10 identified errors will be noted on your paper. Therefore, it is up to you to proofread your papers prior to submitting to Canvas.

### **Project/Assignment**

There will be one project assignment that we will work on throughout the semester and is worth 100 points or 25% of your grade. This project is segmented into parts and most will be worked in class. This project is not designed as “busywork,” but help you relate to your physical environment as well as understand the foundations of geography. Part 1 will be biographical information. Part 2 will be an in-class exercise on location plus a map scales exercise in Part 3. Part 4 will be an in-class exercise on weather; Part 5 will be about climate and climate change. Part 6 will be on natural hazards; and Part 7 will be an in-class exercise about understanding the

natural landscapes of our area. Part 8 will be about our local soils, and Part 9 on our local biomes. You are encouraged to come to class every time we meet, especially when we are working on the Geography ID assignment. If you miss a class, it is up to you to catch up to the rest of the group. The Geography ID parts will be due in stages and not at the end of the semester. Therefore, please refer to the course syllabus or the Canvas calendar for due dates.

### **Assignments**

There will be four (4) assignments worth 20 points each. The first will be about geography and what geographers do. The second assignment will be about the Sun's role in Earth temperatures and atmospheric gases. Assignment 3 will be in-class on weather. Your last assignment, 4 which will be another in-class activity, where we will be working with earthquake data and landscape analysis. Please be aware that some of your homework answers may show up on the final exam. Therefore, you should keep up with all assignments.

### **Quizzes**

There will be five (5) on-line quizzes worth 20 points each covering materials presented in previous chapters. Your first quiz will deal with geography and geographic concepts. The second will cover Solar energy and the atmosphere. Quiz 3 will cover water—atmospheric and oceanic, weather, and climate. Quiz 4 will cover tectonism and landscape analysis. The last quiz, 5, will cover soils, ecosystems, and biomes. Some questions from your quizzes will show up on the final exam. Therefore, you should keep up taking the quizzes.

### **Class Participation**

Plan to attend all class meetings. Active participation is a vital element of the course. This not only makes the class more interesting and enjoyable, but you are also responsible for material discussed during class and you cannot earn an "A" without participating. Your class participation grade will include contributing to discussions and in-class writing assignments. These activities can only be completed in class and cannot be made up except in the case of a documented excused absence. Quality participation also includes volunteering information and ideas to discussions, coming prepared with completed homework assignments, and asking and answering questions. Class participation is worth 60 points and 15% of your final grade.

### **Final Exam**

There is one exam required for this course—a cumulative exam covering all course materials in the semester. The final exam is worth 100 points and 25% of your final grade. The exam will consist of 60 multiple-choice questions (one point each) and two of four selected essay questions (20 points each). The final exam study guide will appear one week before the scheduled exam date. General topics and specific terms will be listed as items to study for the multiple choice section; whereas, generalized concepts of what the essays will be about—not the specific questions—will be on the study guide. All students must take the final exam in order to pass the course.

### **Grading Policy**

A strong performance in all areas of assessment is necessary to achieve the highest grade in this course. You will not be graded on attendance. However, there will be participation points whenever we have in-class classwork, video presentations, and discussions.

Assignments not submitted *on the due date* will be marked down. There will be a 10% reduction in grade for each day that your assignment is late. Any assignment that is overdue by two weeks (four class meetings) is considered late and will receive a zero (0). Your lowest assignment score

will be dropped from your final grade calculation.

On-line quizzes will be open for one week and you will have only two attempts. The last attempt will be your final score. Your lowest quiz score will be dropped from your final grade calculation.

It is your responsibility to inform me in advance if you know you must miss a class for a valid reason. Excused absences refer to illness, family responsibilities, and similar necessities. Exceptions to these policies will be made only in the case of officially documented emergencies. Contact me regarding emergencies as soon as possible—before a paper is due rather than after it is already late—so special arrangements may be made.

Note that “All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades.” See University Policy F13–1 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf> for more details.

### Extra Credit

There will be one (1) extra credit assignment worth 10 points. It can only be used once and only once. You are to find me in my office and ask, “I found you in your office, can I get my extra credit points?”

### Points Breakdown

Assignments	Points	Percent
Geography ID	100	25
Assignments (3)	60	15
Quizzes (4)	80	20
Participation	60	15
Final Exam	100	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>100</b>

### Letter Grades compared to percent ranges

Letter Grade	Percent Range	Letter Grade	Percent Range
A+	97.00 to 100.00	C+	77.00 to 79.99
A	93.00 to 96.99	C	73.00 to 76.99
A–	90.00 to 92.99	C–	70.00 to 72.99
B+	87.00 to 89.99	D+	67.00 to 69.99
B	83.00 to 86.99	D	63.00 to 66.99
B–	80.00 to 82.99	D–	60.00 to 62.99
		F	0.00 to 59.99

## **Classroom Protocol**

We all want to be in a positive learning environment. Course content can be challenging. I expect everyone to be respectful of opinions, other students, and the instructor. I will make every effort to be prepared for class, start and end class on time, and be available during my office hours for help. I expect my students to be prepared for class, come to class on time, and turn in assignments on time. I expect all students to refrain from reading non-course-related materials during class, no passing notes, no talking, no sleeping, and so forth. The use of any personal communication devices during class time is not allowed. Computers are allowed for course related work only.

## **University Policies**

### **General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student**

As members of the academic community, students accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SJSU's policies and practices pertaining to the procedures to follow if and when questions or concerns about a class arises. See University Policy S90–5 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf>. More detailed information on a variety of related topics is available in the SJSU catalog, at <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12788.13060.html>. In general, it is recommended that students begin by seeking clarification or discussing concerns with their instructor. If such conversation is not possible, or if it does not serve to address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as a next step.

### **Dropping and Adding**

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 year calendars document on the Academic Calendars webpage at [http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic\\_calendars/](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/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.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

### **Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material**

University Policy S12–7, <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf> requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course.

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. If you wish to record session, then please see me during my office hours to get my express permission.

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.

### **Academic Integrity**

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San José State University. The University Academic Integrity Policy S07–2 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf> 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/>.

### **Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act**

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97–03 at [http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD\\_1997-03.pdf](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.

### **Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays**

San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed. See University Policy S14–7 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf>.

### **Student Technology Resources**

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center at <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/> located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college.

Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library. A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

### **SJSU Peer Connections**

Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing



Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics.

A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC). Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10th and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit Peer Connections website at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu> for more information.

### **SJSU Writing Center**

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics.

To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the Writing Center website at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>.

### **SJSU Counseling Services**

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit Counseling Services website at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling> .

## Geography 1: Geography of the Natural Environment Course Schedule, Fall 2015

*(Schedule is subject to change with fair notice. Review Canvas Home Page for more information)*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Activities/Assignments</b>	<b>Due</b>
08/24	Introduction		Geog. ID: Pt. 1	
08/26	Essentials of geography	Ch. 1 (Christopherson)		Geog. ID: Pt. 1
08/31	Essentials of geography (con't)		Geog. ID: Pt. 2 & 3	
09/02	Essentials of geography (con't)		Assign. 1	
09/07	LABOR DAY—NO CLASS			
09/09	Solar energy	Ch. 2 (Christopherson)		Geog. ID: Pt. 2 & 3
09/14	Earth's modern atmosphere	Ch. 3 (Christopherson)		
09/16	Atmosphere & surface energy balances	Ch. 4 (Christopherson)	Assign. 2	Assign. 1
09/21	Global temperatures	Ch. 5 (Christopherson)		
09/23	Atmospheric & oceanic circulation patterns	Ch. 6 (Christopherson)		
09/28	Water & atmospheric moisture	Ch. 7 (Christopherson)	In-Class video: <i>Water properties explained — The water cycle</i>	Assign. 2
09/30	Weather	Ch. 8 (Christopherson)	Geog. ID: Pt. 4	
10/05	Weather (con't)		Geog. ID: Pt. 4	
10/07	Weather (con't)		Assign. 3	
10/12	Water resources	Ch. 9 (Christopherson)		Geog. ID: Pt. 4
10/14	Global climate systems	Ch. 10 (Christopherson)	Geog. ID: Pt. 5	
10/19	Climate change	Ch. 11 (Christopherson)	Geog. ID: Pt. 5	
10/21	Climate change (con't)		Geog. ID: Pt. 5 In-Class Video: <i>Are we changing planet Earth?</i>	Assign. 3
10/26	The dynamic planet	Ch. 12 (Christopherson)		Geog. ID: Pt. 5
10/28	Tectonics, earthquakes, volcanism	Ch. 13 (Christopherson)	Geog. ID: Pt. 6	
11/02	Tectonics, earthquakes, volcanism (con't)		Geog. ID: Pt. 6	
11/04	Weathering, karst, mass movement	Ch. 14 (Christopherson)	Geog. ID: Pt. 7	Geog. ID: Pt. 6
11/09	River systems	Ch. 15 (Christopherson)	Geog. ID: Pt. 7	
11/11	VETERANS DAY—NO CLASS			
11/16	Oceans, coastal systems, wind processes	Ch 16 (Christopherson)	Geog. ID: Pt. 7	
11/18	Glacial & periglacial landscapes	Ch 17 (Christopherson)	Geog. ID: Pt. 7	

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Activities/Assignments</b>	<b>Due</b>
11/23	Seismicity & geomorphology wrap-up		Assign. 4	
11/25	Geography of soils	Ch. 18 (Christopherson)	Geog. ID: Pt. 8	Geog. ID: Pt. 7
11/30	Ecosystem landscapes	Ch. 19 (Christopherson)		Geog. ID: Pt. 8
12/02	Terrestrial biomes	Ch. 20 (Christopherson)	Geog. ID: Pt. 9	
12/07	Wrap-up & Review			Geog. ID: Pt. 9; Assign. 4
<b>12/16</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM CL 224 (0715 to 0930)</b>			