

**San José State University**  
**College of Social Sciences / Geography and Global Studies**  
**Geography 1, Geography of Natural Environments**  
**Section 3, Course #43244 - Fall, 2015**

**Course and Contact Information**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Tiffany Seeley
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<b>Office Hours:</b>	Thursdays from 10:30 - 11:30 AM; or by appointment
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	Tuesday, Thursday, 1:30pm - 2:45pm
<b>Classroom:</b>	CL 224
<b>GE/SJSU Studies Category:</b>	B1

**Course Format**

Much of the class will be conducted in a traditional lecture format, but I try to make my classes as interactive as possible. There will be days when we have discussions, in-class, activities, or other non-traditional methods. All of your written assignments for this class will be turned in online through [turnitin.com](http://turnitin.com), so you will need access to a computer and the internet in order to turn in your assignments. In addition to this, the majority of my communication with you throughout the semester will be on Canvas - this includes any assignments, announcements, posting of grades, etc. Computers are available on campus for you to use at the MLK Library.

**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.

In essence, this class provides an overview of the Earth's awe-inspiring physical landscape through introducing the processes and systems that have helped to shape it. The main emphasis of this course is on using geographic inquiry to investigate *how* and *why* something (in this case, physical processes and systems) happens *where* it happens. For an overview of the many fascinating processes we will be learning about this semester, please see the course schedule on page 6.

**Course Goals and Learning Outcomes**

GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

*Students should be able to:*

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

- On exams you will not only be asked about the features of the natural environment and how they came to be, but also provide explanations on how these systems function.
- In class activities on the adiabatic process, climates, plate tectonics and others will provide constant opportunities to test, apply, and question the physical processes that are discussed in this course.

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

- The final project will provide an opportunity for you to discover our impact on the environment and physical geography of the Bay Area.

GELO 3: *recognize methods of science, in which quantitative, analytical reasoning techniques are used.*

- Exams and in-class activities will include questions that test your ability to read and interpret data, graphs, and maps related to the topics we will encounter throughout the semester.
- One of your homework assignments includes collection and interpretation of weather data.
- You will need to use analytical reasoning techniques in order to successfully complete the final project where you will find real-world examples of the physical processes that we discuss in class.

This class has a writing requirement of at least 1500 words. Your final project will have a minimum word count of 1500 words. Each of your exams will also include writing in the form of in-class short answer and essay questions.

### **Required Texts/Readings**

**Textbook:** The textbook for this class is *Physical Geography: A Landscape Appreciation* by Hess, Publisher: Prentice Hall. You do not need to get the current edition! Any edition between 9 and 11 is fine. There is also a California version of this book that you may use (any edition). The book can be found at the SJSU book store and various sources online.

**Other materials:** You will also need one dry-erase marker for in-class activities and a set of colored pencils for your notes (at least one each of: red, blue, purple). I re-use laminated sheets for activities to cut down on paper use - this is what you will be using the dry-erase marker for. You **MUST** bring the marker to EVERY class. I recommend using a fine-tip marker.

### **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 forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

Note that University policy F6925 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F6924.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.”

### **Exams & Quizzes**

In this class there will be a total of 4 online quizzes and 2 in-class exams. The quizzes will not be cumulative. Much of the information you learn in this class, however, builds on previous content. You will need to know the material and concepts from the early chapters in the book to understand the concepts you will be tested on later on in the course.

The online exams will use multiple choice, matching, fill in the blank questions that evaluate your comprehension and application of the major processes that we discuss in class. These questions not only test your ability to identify the concepts and processes, but also your ability to apply them. For this reason, it is imperative that you make sure you have a thorough understanding of the processes we talk about in class - please do not hesitate to ask questions! Please refer to the study guides on Canvas for more information about the dates for these quizzes as well as the content you will be tested on in each of the 4 quizzes.

Both the midterm exam and final exam will be held during class time and will be a written exam with a combination of practical questions, short answer, and long answer questions designed to test your comprehension of the processes we discuss in class. You will know the questions you will be asked on the exam so that you are able to study thoroughly for them. No note cards or study aids will be allowed for the Midterm or Final Exam. Scantrons are not necessary.

### **Paper : Physical Geography of the Bay Area**

This assignment is designed to help you get out of the classroom to discover physical geography in the Bay Area! The vast majority of processes covered in this class be found right here in our own backyard. For this project, you will take photos of places in the Bay Area that demonstrate evidence of physical processes that we have discussed in class and provide an explanation of what is happening in your photo. You will receive more detailed instructions for this project within the first 2 weeks of the semester.

## In Class Activities and Homework Assignments

It is very important that you attend class and participate fully in discussions, activities, and in-class assignments. Some of the content in this class can be difficult to understand, so the more practice you have with the material the better you will do in this course. Most of these assignments will be done in-class with your peers, but there will be 4-5 take-home mapping and data collection assignments that I will assign throughout the semester. The material in this class is often difficult to understand, so it is important that you come to class with at least a basic knowledge of the concepts. For this reason, **you will be responsible for reading each week's chapter before you come to class.**

## Grading Policy

Your grade in this course is based on your performance on quizzes, exams, in-class activities, homework assignments, and a final project.

ASSIGNMENT	POINTS	PERCENTAGE	LETTER GRADE
4 Online Quizzes	80 points (20 each)	90% - 100%	A
Midterm Exam	80 points	80% - 89 %	B
Final Exam	80 points	70% - 79%	C
Activities & Homework	100 points	60% - 69%	D
Final Project	100 points	59% and below	F
	440 total points		

While I do my best to make sure that your grades are up-to-date and as accurate as possible, I do make mistakes sometimes. If you have any issues with a grade that I have given you, please come see me before or after class or set up an appointment with me so we can resolve the issue immediately. If you have any issues with a grade I have given you, please talk to me about them person - I generally will not discuss your grades via email.

This course must be passed with a C or better as a CSU graduation requirement.

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

## Late work, Extra Credit, and Make-up Exams

I do not accept late work for in-class activities or take-home assignments. I will accept your final project up to one week late, but for each **DAY** it is late your grade will be marked down by 10 points. Extra credit opportunities involve attending a geography related field trip or event during the semester and writing 350 word essay on what you learned and how it relates to the concepts or themes we've discussed in this class. This extra credit assignment is worth a maximum of 15 extra points toward your final score. You are allowed to make up ONE missed exam (not quizzes), for any reason. The makeup exam will be completed during Finals Week. I will not allow make-ups for the final exam except for a verifiable emergency!

## Classroom Protocol

Academic Senate policy on classroom behavior (S90-5), at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/s90-5.htm>, applies to this class.

## Technology

If you are having difficulties uploading an assignment online you **MUST** email me the assignment by the due date and then come talk to me after class to resolve your issue. I **WILL NOT** grade any assignments that are emailed to me. It is your responsibility to make sure that whatever technological issues you have are resolved and the assignment is either uploaded online or printed out and handed to me within **ONE WEEK** of the due date.

You are welcome to use your laptops, iPads, or other devices to take notes in class. You should only be using your devices for class-related tasks. Cell phones should be put on silent and put away during class time. If you need to use your phone to text or make a phone call, please leave the classroom - cell phone use is extremely distracting to both me and those sitting around you.

When appropriate, you are welcome to use your phone as a calculator or to look up information during appropriate in-class activities. If I notice that you are abusing this privilege, I will ask you to put away your device. If it becomes a recurring issue, you will be asked to leave the class.

## Guidelines for Email

Email is a great resource for you to communicate with me outside of the classroom. I generally check my emails two or three times a day between 10am and 7pm, Monday through Friday. I always do my best to try to email you back within 24 hours. Please note that I am usually not available via email on the weekends.

Nine times out of ten, it is actually much better for you to just come talk to me before or after class rather than email me. Here are a few guidelines for you regarding when it is appropriate to email me:

<b>Please DO NOT email me to:</b>	<b>Please DO email me to:</b>
Tell me you are going to be late or absent.	Clarify an assignment or ask for feedback on your work.
Ask about your grade - come see me before or after class.	Set up an appointment to meet with me.
Get course related documents - look on Canvas!	If you're not able to upload an assignment online and want me to know you did it on time. (You <b>MUST</b> have it uploaded online within 1 week to get credit.)
Ask questions before first checking the syllabus or assignment prompts for clarification.	

## 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 [info.sjsu.edu/web-dbggen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.120506.html](http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbggen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.120506.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](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/) at [http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic\\_calendars/](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/). The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/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](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) 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), <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.”
  - It is suggested that the greensheet include the instructor's process for granting permission, whether in writing or orally and whether for the whole semester or on a class by class basis.
  - In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.
- “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 Jose State University. The [University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/aec) (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.

## **Student Technology Resources**

Computer labs for student use are available in the [Academic Success Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/) 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 a 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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](http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu) 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook. (Note: You need to have a QR Reader to scan this code.)



## **SJSU Counseling Services**

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>.

**Geography 1, Geography of Natural Environments  
Section 3, Fall 2015 Course Schedule**

While I will do my best to stick to this schedule, please expect that there may be times when I have to adjust it according to our progress throughout the semester. The following schedule is subject to change:

Course Schedule

<b>CLASS DATE:</b>	<b>CHAPTERS COVERED</b>
Aug 20	Ch. 1 Introducing the Earth
Aug 25	Ch. 2 Portraying the Earth
Aug 27	Ch. 3 Introduction to the Atmosphere
Sept 1	Ch. 4 Insolation and Temperature
Sept 3	
Sept 8	Ch. 5 Atmospheric Pressure and Wind
Sept 10	
Sept 15	
Sept 17	Ch. 6 Atmospheric Moisture
Sept 22	Ch. 7 Atmospheric Disturbances
Sept 24	
Sept 29	Ch. 8 Climate and Climate Change
Oct 1	
Oct 6	Ch. 8 Climate and Climate Change
Oct 8	
Oct 13	<b>(TUESDAY) MIDTERM EXAM - Chapters 1 - 8</b>
Oct 15	
Oct 20	Ch. 11 Terrestrial Flora and Fauna
Oct 22	
Oct 27	Ch. 13 Intro to Landform Study
Oct 29	
Nov 3	Ch. 14 The Internal Process
Nov 5	
Nov 10	Ch. 15 Weathering and Mass Wasting
Nov 12	
Nov 17	Ch. 16 The Fluvial Process and Terrain
Nov 19	
Nov 24	Ch. 20 Coastal Processes and Terrain
Nov 26	<b>THANKSGIVING BREAK - THURSDAY</b>
Dec 1	Ch. 19 Glacial Modification of Terrain
Dec 3	
Dec 8	<b>FINAL EXAM - Chapters 11, 13 - 16, 19-20 Thursday, Dec 10 from 7:15am - 9:30am</b>
Dec 10	