

San José State University
Geography and Global Studies
GEOG 001, Geography of the Natural Environment, Fall , 2015

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dyuti Sengupta, PhD
Office Location:	Online
Telephone:	By request only
Email:	dyuti.sengupta@sjsu.edu (preferred)
Office Hours:	By appointment. I am often available online during the day. I am also willing to make in-person appointments over the weekend occasionally.
Class Days/Time:	Online
Classroom:	https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1162187
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	SCIENCE – B1

Course Format

Online Instruction—All instruction takes place online, with no physical in-person or on campus meetings or activities required. Because this is an online course, my expectation is that you will log in at least four days a week to check for updates to assignments, additional readings, hints or tips. I also encourage you to log in and communicate with me, as well as your classmates.

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

EFFECTIVE Aug 27, 2015: Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the Canvas learning management system course website. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU.

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.

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

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.

Readings: Textbook & Supplemental Material (e.g. videos, articles)

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; 15–River systems; 17–Glacial & periglacial landscapes

Assignments

Video and short response – “Blue Gold”, a critical viewpoint about water mining and water resources
Homework – Tectonic plates exercise (Google Earth)

GELO 2: Demonstrate ways in which science influences and is influenced by complex societies, including political and moral issues;

Assignments

Book review – choose a physical geography topic that interests you and write a critical book review. This satisfies the writing requirements for the course. I will provide you a list of books from which you can choose. If you select a book that is not on the list, then please run it by me first. Deadline to turn in your book choice is **Thursday, Nov 2 – Deadline to turn in your book title, author and topic for book review (This can be turned in before Nov 2 if you wish). You must read the book title that you submit by this date. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

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

Assignments

Homework – dimensional analysis
Homework – basic statistics and geographical concepts

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Geosystems: An Introduction to Physical Geography 9th ed., *Christopherson & Birkeland*

Other Readings

To be announced. I will make any extra readings available to you in a timely fashion.

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>.

There are four homework assignments, two midterms, one book review (min 1500 words) and a final exam required in this course. THERE IS NO EXTRA CREDIT.

Geography of the Natural Environment, Geog. 1, Fall 2015

Homework Assignments: Due Friday Sept 4 (Dimensional Analysis), Friday, Oct 9 (Basic Statistics), Friday, October 30 (Water Resources response paper – 500 words minimum), Friday, November 20 (Tectonic Plates Google Earth exercise).

Midterm 1: Thursday, Oct 2, 2015

The first midterm will cover the basics of Physical Geography, including the scientific method of inquiry, the earth's atmosphere and global circulation patterns. We will also cover key human impact topics including climate change and pollution. Chapters 1-5 in the textbook, roughly.

Select Book Review Book: Monday, Nov 2

Midterm 2: Thursday, Nov 6, 2015

The second midterm will continue to address the scientific method, but will include more topics such as water resources, hydrology, weather and climate. This is roughly Chapters 7 – 11.

Book Review Due: Wednesday, Dec 8, 2015

The book review is designed to help you critically think about a physical geography topic that is influenced by complex societies, including political and moral issues. The book review is a writing assignment designed to help you think critically and delve into physical geography topics that interest you personally. The book review requirements will be posted by Sept 8.

Final Exam: Wednesday, Dec 16, 2015. The final exam will cover the latter third of the semester.

NOTE: It should be noted that the Academic Vice President in a memorandum dated October 25, 1977 cites a university policy that states that there shall be an appropriate final examination or evaluation at the officially scheduled time in every course, unless specifically exempted by the college dean who has curricular responsibility for the course.

NOTE that [University policy F69-24](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf) 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.”

Grading

40% Two midterm exams, 100 points each (200 points)

20% A book review (100 points)

20% A final exam emphasizing the latter portion of the course 100 points (100 points)

20% Homework (100 points total, 25 points each)

Letter Grades compared to percent ranges calculated on a total of 500 points.

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

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](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf> for more details.

University Policies

General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student

As members of the academic community, you accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. You 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf) 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](http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html), at <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html>.

Dropping and Adding

You 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/. The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Please 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> 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 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 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.

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](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf) 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](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 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](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 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>.

GEOG 001 / Geography of the Natural Environment Fall 2015 Course Schedule

Course Schedule

Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
8/27	Chapter 1 – The Essentials of Geography + Module Readings
9/1	Chapter 2 – Solar Energy to Earth and the Seasons + Module Readings, 9/4 Dimensional Analysis Assignment
9/10	Chapter 3 – Earth’s Modern Atmosphere
9/21	Chapter 4 – Earth’s Modern Atmosphere
9/28	Chapter 5 – Global Temperatures, 10/2 Midterm #1 covering Chapters 1-4
10/5	Chapter 6 – Atmospheric and Oceanic Circulation + 10/9 Basic Statistics Assignment
10/13	Chapter 7 – Water and Atmospheric Moisture
10/19	Chapter 8 - Weather
10/26	Chapter 9* - Water Resources, Water Video Response Paper Assignment Due 10/30
11/2	Book Review Book Selection Due 11/2 Midterm #2 11/6, Chapter 10 – Global Climate Systems, Chapter 11 – Climate Change
11/16	Chapter 12, 13 – The Dynamic Planet, Tectonics, Earthquakes and Volcanism 11/20 – Tectonic Plate Assignment Due
11/30	Chapter 15 – River Systems
12/8	Book Review Due
12/16	Final Exam