

San José State University
Department of Geography & Global Studies
GEOG 1, Geography of the Natural Environment, Section 80, Fall, 2017

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Joe Hasty
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Office Hours:	T/TH 1:15pm-2:15pm
Class Days/Time:	Online
Classroom:	Online
Prerequisites:	None
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	B1
Course Fees:	None

Course Format

This course is conducted completely online using Canvas and Pearson Mastering Geography.

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, and grades can be found on the Canvas learning management system course website: <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/canvas/>.

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.

Learning Outcomes and Course Goals

GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

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

Assignment application: Out of class essay assignments and in-class exam questions (short answer and multiple choice).

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

Assignment application: Out of class essay assignments and in-class exam questions (short answer and multiple choice).

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

Assignment application: Out of class essay assignments and in-class exam questions (short answer and multiple choice).

Required Texts/Readings

Title: McKnight's Physical Geography: A Landscape Appreciation

Author: Darrel Hess

ISBN-13: 978-0134195421

Edition: 12th

Copyright: 2017

Subscription to Mastering Geography Online:

<http://www.pearsonmylabandmastering.com/northamerica/masteringgeography/>

Websites: This course is integrated with the Canvas learning environment and Mastering Geography website. These password-driven websites allow student access to course material. The subscription to Mastering Geography is required and will be an additional cost.

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>.

Grading Policy

Assignments (15 x 15 pts)	225 points
Map Assignments (15 x 5 pts)	75 points
Quizzes (15 x 10 pts)	150 points
Midterm Exams (2 x 150 pts)	300 points
Final Exam (not cumulative)	150 points
Class Participation	100 points
Total points available	1000 points

Percentage	Total Points	Letter Grade
95-100%	950-500	A
90-94%	900- 949	A-
87-89 %	870-899	B+
83-86%	830-869	B
80-82%	800-829	B-
77-79 %	770-799	C+
73-76%	730-769	C
70-72%	700-729	C-
65-69%	650-699	D+
60-64%	600-649	D
Less than 60 %	Less than 600	F

Course Structure: The course is organized into 3 **SECTIONS**, each composed of 5 **UNITS**. Each Unit extends over one semester week (shorter for Winter or Summer sessions) and contains four graded components: a discussion, a quiz, a map assignment, and a unit assignment. Each section extends over 5 semester weeks (shorter for Winter or Summer sessions) and will be accompanied by an exam. **Please note that units do not correlate with chapters in the text.** The required readings for each unit will be posted on the reading schedule.

Quizzes: There will be 15 quizzes, one for each unit. These will be open note and open textbook. The quiz may be taken anytime during the allotted time window. Once the quiz is started, you will only have 15 minutes to finish. The questions and time constraints are designed to encourage retention of course material. You will not have enough time to look up each answer in the text or notes. Quizzes can be submitted late for 1/2 credit. These will be conducting on the Mastering Geography website.

Unit Assignments: There will be 15 unit assignments. They are worth 15 points each (225 points total). They will consist of a variety of online computer work, including Google Earth, dynamic animation, map, and video assignments. Late work will be accepted for 1/2 credit. These will be conducting on the Mastering Geography website.

Map Assignments: There will be 15 unit map assignments. They are worth 5 points each (75 points total). They will consist of properly locating geographic locations in various world regions. Late work will be accepted for 1/2 credit. These will be conducting on the Mastering Geography website.

Midterm Exams: There will be two midterm exams. Each will be worth 15% of your final grade. They will come in two parts. The format of the first part will be will include 50 multiple choice questions and you will have 60 minutes. The format of the second part will include 5 short answer questions and you will have 40 minutes. These will be open note and open textbook. Both parts of the exam must be taken during the established time slot, but they do not have to be taken one right after the other. Check the Calendar for these times. The questions and time constraints are designed to encourage retention of course material. You will not have enough time to look up each answer in the text or notes. Make ups may be given at the instructors approval. These will be conducting on the Mastering Geography website.

Final Exam: The final exam will follow the same format as the midterm exams and **will not be cumulative**. It will only cover the last section. There are no make-ups.

Discussion Topics (Attendance): Attendance is not graded, but participation on the discussion board accounts for 10% of your grade. There will be 15 discussion topics, one for each unit. You are expected to make original, productive comments on each discussion topic. For full credit, you must respond to the original topic AND respond to at least one peer comment. These will be conducting on the Canvas website.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

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Fall, 2017, Course Schedule

This schedule is subject to change with fair notice.

Course Schedule

Wk	Date	Unit	Reading
1	8/23 – 9/3	1 – Intro to Geography	Hess - Ch 1
2	9/4 – 9/10	2 – Portraying the Earth	Hess - Ch 2
3	9/11 – 9/17	3 – Weather/Climate I	Hess - Ch 3 and 4
4	9/18 – 9/24	4 – Weather/Climate II	Hess - Ch 5
5	9/25 – 10/1	5 – Weather/Climate III	Hess - Ch 6
	9/29 – 10/2	Midterm Exam #1	Hess – 1-6
6	10/2 – 10/8	6 – Weather/Climate IV	Hess - Ch 7
7	10/9 – 10/15	7 – Weather/Climate V	Hess - Ch 8
8	10/16 – 10/22	8 – The Hydrosphere	Hess - Ch 9
9	10/23 – 10/29	9 – Intro to Landform Study	Hess - Ch 13
10	10/30 – 11/5	10 – The Internal Process	Hess - Ch 14
	11/3 – 11/6	Midterm Exam #2	Hess – 7-9, 13-14
11	11/6 – 11/12	11 – Preliminaries to Erosion	Hess - Ch 15
12	11/13 – 11/19	12 – Fluvial Processes	Hess - Ch 16
13	11/20 – 11/26	13 – Topography of Arid Lands	Hess - Ch 18
14	11/27 – 12/3	14 – Glacial Modifications of Terrain	Hess - Ch 19
15	12/4 – 12/10	15 – Coastal Processes of Terrain	Hess – Ch 20
	12/11 – 12/19	Final Exam	Hess – 15-16, 18-20