

San José State University
Department of Geography and Global Studies
GEOG 001, Geography of the Natural Environment, Fall 2017

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Amy Petersen Wynes
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Office Hours:	Wednesday 12:00pm-1:00pm or by appointment
Class Days/Time:	M/W 10:30am-11:45am; 1:30pm-2:45pm
Classroom:	Clark Hall Room 224
Prerequisites:	None
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	B1

Course Format

This course meets in person twice weekly on campus and consists of lecture and related activities. Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, assignments, and grades can be found online at the Canvas website: <http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/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: Reaction papers as well as your group paper will address current scientific issues and how they are applicable to the geographic principles covered in lecture.

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

Assignment Application: Your group paper will go into significant depth on how science influences current events in our society and how we mitigate for these issues.

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

Assignment Application: In class quizzes will cover a number of scientific principles associated with the study of geography. Reaction papers and your group paper will also contribute to a better understanding of quantitative and analytical techniques used in scientific methodology.

Required Texts/Readings (Required)

Title: McKnight's Physical Geography: A Landscape Appreciation

Author: Darrel Hess

ISBN: 9780134195421

12th Edition

Copyright: 2017

* This book can be rented through Amazon for a low cost.

Other Readings

Other readings will be made available on the [Canvas](#) website or distributed during class.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 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.

Quizzes

There will be short quizzes given out on a weekly basis at the end of lecture. These quizzes are worth 20% of your final grade and will help you gain a better understanding of the course content. Upon completion of each quiz, we will discuss the answers and review the relative concepts in class.

Reaction Papers

You will be required to complete 3 short reaction papers (1-2 pages, double-spaced) in response to articles or media presented in class. Your goal is to summarize what you have read and incorporate your personal opinion on the issue being discussed. Each paper will be worth 50 points. All articles will be available on Canvas or handed out during class time. Reaction papers are to be submitted through the Canvas portal and will be checked for plagiarism through Turnitin.com.

Group Research Paper

Your group research paper will focus on one particular aspect of global warming (disruptions to food supply, sea level rise, coral reef bleaching, etc.) Your group will be required to submit one 1,000 word paper discussing your topic of choice. Each paper must have an introduction, valid points and examples pertaining to your given subject, potential mitigations, and a conclusion. All papers are required to have a minimum of 4 peer-reviewed sources. In text citations as well as a bibliography are required. Group papers are to be submitted through the Canvas portal and will be checked for plagiarism through Turnitin.com. Each group will also be required to give a class presentation discussing their chosen topic.

Please Note: All papers are required to be double spaced with 1" margins. Times New Roman or Arial are acceptable fonts (no larger than 12). As for all papers submitted in this class, please include your name, course number, and date in the upper right hand corner.

Final Examination

The final exam will be held in class and will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions.

Grading Policy

Chapter Quizzes (10 quizzes worth 20 points each)	200
Reaction Papers (3 worth 50 points each)	150
Midterm Exam	200
Group Research Paper/Presentation	200
Final Exam (Not Cumulative)	200
Participation	50
Total Points Available	1000

Determination of Grades

Percentage	Total Points	Letter Grade
95-100%	950-1000	A
90-94%	900-940	A-
87-89%	870-890	B+
83-86%	830-860	B
80-82%	800-820	B-
77-79%	770-790	C+
73-76%	730-760	C
70-72%	700-720	C-
65-69%	650-690	D+
60-64%	600-640	D
Less than 60%	Less than 600	F

Your grade will be based on your assignments, in class quizzes and exams, as well as class participation. All assignments are to be turned in through Canvas on or before the specified due date unless otherwise indicated. Any assignment submitted after the due date will lose 10% credit for each calendar day that it is late.

Classroom Protocol

Participation is part of your grade, and therefore you will be expected to arrive on time and be active in class discussions and activities. **Cell phone use during class is prohibited.** If you need to make a phone call or send an important text, please step outside the classroom to do so.

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/>.

GEOG 001, Geography of the Natural Environment

Fall 2017 Course Schedule

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	8/23/17	Intro and Syllabus
2	8/28/17	What is Geography? Reading: Hess, Chapter 1
	8/30/17	Quiz 1
3	9/4/17	Labor Day – No Class
	9/6/17	Reading: Hess, Chapter 3; Article: The Montreal Protocol Last Day to Drop Class
4	9/11/17	Reading: Hess, Chapter 6
	9/13/17	Quiz 2 Reaction Paper #1 Due Last Day to Add Class
5	9/18/17	Reading: Hess, Chapter 8
	9/20/17	Quiz 3
6	9/25/17	Reading: Hess, Chapter 9; Article: Into Thin Ice
	9/27/17	Quiz 4
7	10/2/17	Reading: Hess, Chapter 10 Reaction Paper #2 Due
	10/4/17	Quiz 5
8	10/9/17	Midterm Review
	10/11/17	Midterm Exam
9	10/16/17	Reading: Hess, Chapter 11; Article: Coast Redwoods and Drought Resistance
	10/18/17	Quiz 6 Group work
10	10/23/17	Reading: Hess, Chapter 12 Reaction Paper #3 Due
	10/25/17	Quiz 7
11	10/30/17	Reading: Hess, Chapter 13
	11/1/17	Quiz 8
12	11/6/17	Reading: Hess, Chapter 14
	11/8/17	Quiz 9
	11/13/17	Reading: Hess, Chapter 15

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
13	11/15/17	No Class
14	11/20/17	Reading: Hess, Chapter 16 Quiz 10
	11/22/17	Presentations
15	11/27/17	Presentations
	11/29/17	Presentations Group Research Paper Due
16	12/4/17	Final Exam Review
Final Exam	TBD	Final Exam Location and Time TBD

Please Note: This schedule is subject to change with fair notice.