

San José State University College of Social Sciences
Geography and Global Studies: Geography 1,
Geography of Natural Environments, Section 4, Spring 2015

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Edward Collins
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Availability:	Via e-mail, telephone and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	On-line
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	B1 (Science and Mathematical Concepts)

Course Format

This is an on-line class format using Canvas, and computer access is required. I will send informational e-mails and posting lectures and supporting material on Canvas, including assignments and quizzes. Lectures are posted twice weekly to spread out your work. Large tests and exercises have been replaced by quizzes and smaller exercises. (You also have a week to finish each online quiz, and 2 weeks for each assignment.) Computer access is available on campus. I am available via e-mail, by phone, or by appointment.

Course Description

This course covers atmospheric, biologic and geologic processes that create the earth's environments. We will cover local, regional and global patterns in the location and distribution of environmental phenomena, and some human modifications of natural environments. When you complete this course, you will better understand the interaction of the dynamic physical systems of the earth, which directly and indirectly affect you.

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.*

- Our present understanding of meteorological, tectonic, and bio-geographic systems will be developed and tested using quizzes. This basic scientific knowledge will be applied to the various ecosystems of the world, in order to understand the physical and biological forces that shape them, how these ecosystems developed, and how they change over time.
- Your final paper evaluates *one* aspect of global climate change (GCC), including its causes, the environmental effects of this change, our present estimate of the impacts of this change on society, and some possible responses to ameliorate the consequences of this one aspect of GCC.

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

- Your lectures will cover ways in which we disturb physical processes, and ways in which we put ourselves at risk from the physical environment. These will also be tested in your quizzes.
- Video summary papers (including your first paper assignment, outlined below) shall discuss several impacts of the dynamic physical world on local water security, food supply, and safety.
- Your final paper focuses on one impact of global climate change, including both causes and effects, as well as discussing possible responses to this impact.

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

- You will understand the scientific method, which is presented early, evaluated in quiz 1, and applied within the class.
- The basic concepts and analytic reasoning that support them will be presented in lecture, including some that will be shown as simple experiments, and this knowledge will be tested in your quizzes. Such scientific methods, concepts and analytic reasoning will be part of testing.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

The class textbook is *Physical Geography* by H. J. de Blij, Peter O. Muller, James E. Burt and Joseph A. Mason (ISBN-13: 9780199859610). It is crucial to your success. You can use an electronic or hard-copy version. Sources include the SJSU bookstore, CourseSmart (www.coursesmart.com), and online books sellers. The CourseSmart URL for the book is <http://www.coursesmart.com/physical-geography-the-global-environment/h-j-de-blij-peter-o-muller-james-e-burt-joseph/dp/9780199859610>. There is also a reserve copy at the library.

Other Sources

Video clip links and other sources that support your readings will be sent to you using Canvas and your SJSU e-mail. Please make sure to check your accounts regularly.

Library Liaison

The Geography library liaison, Nyle Monday, can be reached at (408) 808-2041, and his e-mail address is Nyle.Monday@sjsu.edu.

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>.

Quizzes

There are on-line quizzes every other week, and each will be composed of multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer, and one essay question, covering the previous two weeks. Questions will be drawn from both the text and lectures, and the start dates are specified in the calendar below. Most questions are taken from the textbook question bank. Quizzes will be available for one week. (***Quizzes support GELO 1, GELO 2 and GELO 3.***)

Papers

The 1500 word writing requirement for this class, which is met by one 750 word final paper and several video summaries. (***Papers support GELO 1, GELO 2 and GELO 3.***)

First Video Essay

Your first writing assignment involves watching the video Earth from Space, by PBS/NOVA at <http://video.pbs.org/video/2334144059/>. In 250 words or more, briefly summarize key points, what you learned, and what you want to know more about. You want to think of the content in terms of three basic queries.

- What is each issue or problem and what are its causes?
- What are some effects of this problem on nature and/or human society?
- How do researchers study these problems?

Take notes while watching the video to make later work easier. Your paper should be at least 250 words long, and the body of your work should dominate the paper. ***Do not copy and paste from a website or from anyone's work, including other papers you wrote.*** See the paragraph on academic honesty in the syllabus. Your work should be legible (double spaced, 1" margins, and 12 pt font). (***This paper supports GELO 1 and GELO 2.***)

Final Paper

We will also develop a final paper over the span of the class. We will be working in bite-sized chunks until the paper is due at the end of the semester. Each of you will select a different specific impact of global climate change (GCC), with a small focus, such as a single species, a single ecosystem, a single crop, one effect of sea level rise, acid rain, increased ocean acidity, an ecosystem shift, or projected species losses in one small region. Your first task is to keep the topic small enough to complete in only 750 words.

Again, your final paper will study only one aspect of global climate change (GCC). (Keep the topic focused and easy enough to address.) You will use two recent articles from peer reviewed journals, such as *Science* and *Nature*. (Such journals are well-respected). Your topic should be specific in the sense that you can discuss three key points in 750 words.

- What is the problem and what are its causes?
- What are some societal effects of this problem?
- What are some solutions to the problem?
 - You ***should*** include general climate change solutions

- You **must** include stop-gap solutions necessary to address the problem while GCC effects continue to get worse. (Things will likely get worse before they get better. Climates will shift, weather patterns will change, the sea will slowly rise and acidify, and thus ecosystems, resources, and human activities will be risk.)

You should both reference and cite all material you gather information from, using APA formatting. In addition to your peer-reviewed publications, professional Internet sources are acceptable. Do not use Wikipedia or other ‘informal’ sources. I will discuss this topic using Camtasia. These will provide more specific advice in writing this paper. Please send any questions regarding this assignment via e-mail any time during the semester.

Cite and reference your sources. In your required reference section, use APA formatting to fully describe the source. I recommend using campus resources or the [OWL at Purdue](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/), located at <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/> to make such work easier. Basic citation rules are located at <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/02/>. Author citation structure is shown at <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/03/>. Electronic citations are covered in <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/10/>. (Search for the keyword video.) If, after you are having problems, please contact me.

You must provide unique work, not contents or format generated by other students or material used by you in other classes. See the paragraph on academic honesty in the syllabus. Your work should be legible (double spaced, 1” margins, 12 pt font). (***This paper supports GELO 2.***)

Grading Policy

The class grading is composed of **quizzes (34% of total grade)**, and **writing assignments (33% of total grade)**, and **exercises (33% of total grade)**. (The lowest quiz and the lowest exercise will be dropped.) Your final grade based on these three factors, and is calculated as follows:

A+	98% - 100%	A	92% -97%	A-	90% - 91%
B+	88% - 89%	B	82% - 87%	B-	80% - 81%
C+	78% - 79%	C	72% - 77%	C-	70% - 71%
D	60% - 69%	F	0% - 59%		

A 5% penalty will be assessed each day for late papers. No work is accepted after the end of the semester without justification and a completed authorized incomplete application.

All work must be your own unique effort. To that end, all of your papers must be submitted to Turnitin using Canvas before they will be graded. Again, un-submitted work will not be graded. Cheating on a quiz or extensive plagiarism will result in a zero for the work submitted, and report to Student Conduct and Ethical Development.

Paper Grading:

Each paper will be graded using the following deductions:

Error	Penalty
Not in Turnitin	Work is not graded.
No name, class, assignment listed	-5%
No title	-5%
Poor grammar	-10%
Poor description of causes	-20%
Poor description of effects	-20%
Poor description of responses	-20%
Poor introduction	-5%
Poor conclusion	-5%
Poor citations	-10%
Missing citations	-20%

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

Classroom Protocol

All students shall treat all other people, including peers and professors, respectfully, professionally and courteously. Academic Senate policy on classroom behavior (S90-5), at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/s90-5.htm>, applies to this class.

University Policies:

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/. 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. [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.

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 are in several departments and colleges, as well as 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 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 the [Counseling Services website](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>.

Geography 1, Geography of Natural Environments, Section 4, Spring 2015 Course Schedule

This schedule is subject to change with fair notice, announced in class and via e-mail one week in advance.

Course Schedule

Date	Lecture Topic	Reading	Assignments/quizzes
1/23/2015	Syllabus, Course Introduction	Units 1, 2 (1-25)	Video Summary 1
1/27/2015	Earth's sphere, characteristics of landmasses and ocean basins	Units 3, 4 (26-52)	Exercise 1
1/30/2015	Mapping Earth's surface; Earth-Sun relationships	Unit 5 (53-65)	Video Summary 2
2/3/2015	Radiation and heat balance of Planet Earth	Units 6, 7 (66-92)	Exercise 2
2/6/2015	Composition and structure of the atmosphere; Temperature in the lower atmosphere.	Units 8, 9 (93-114)	Quiz 1
2/10/2015	Air Pressure and Winds;	Unit 10 (p. 115- 127)	Exercise 3
2/13/2015	Circulation Patterns of the Atmosphere	Unit 10 (p. 115- 127)	Video Summary 3
2/17/2015	Circulation of the World Ocean	Unit 11 (128-141)	Exercise 4
2/20/2015	Atmospheric Moisture and Water Balance	Unit 12 (142-154)	Quiz 2
2/24/2015	Precipitation, Air Masses and Fronts	Unit 13 (155-169)	Exercise 5
2/27/2015	Weather Systems	Unit 13 (155-169)	Video Summary 4
3/3/2015	Weather Systems	Units 14, 15 (172-192)	Exercise 6
3/6/2015	Climate Classification and Regionalization	Units 16, 17 (193-213)	Quiz 3
3/10/2015	Principal Climate Types	Units 18, 19 (214-241)	Exercise 7
3/13/2015	Natural and Human Impacts on Climate Change	Unit 20 (244-251)	Video Summary 5
3/17/2015	The Biosphere; Climate, Soil, Plants and Animals	Units 21, 22 (252-269)	Exercise 8
3/20/2015	Soil Formation and Properties	Unit 23 (270-284)	Quiz 4
3/24/2015	Spring Recess	(none)	(none)
3/27/2015	Spring Recess	(none)	(none)
3/31/2015	Classification and Mapping of Soils	Unit 24, 25 (285-309)	Exercise 9

4/3/2015	Biogeographic Processes; Global Distribution of Plants	Unit 26 (310-323)	Video Summary 6
4/7/2015	Zoogeography	Units 27, 28, 29 (324-342)	Exercise 10
4/10/2015	Intro. to the Earth's Crust; Minerals and Rocks	Units 30, 31 (354-373)	Quiz 5
4/14/2015	Plates and Plate Movement	Units 32, 33, 34 (374-407)	Exercise 11
4/17/2015	Volcanism; Earthquakes; Faults, Folds, and Landscapes	Units 35, 36, 37 (408-433)	Video Summary 7
4/21/2015	Formation of Landforms and Landscapes; Weathering Processes; Mass Movements	Units 38,39 (434-455)	Exercise 12
4/24/2015	Water in the Lithosphere; Slopes and Streams	Units 40, 41, 42 (456-491)	Quiz 6
4/28/2015	Fluvial Geomorphology; Karst processes and Landforms	Units 43, 44 (492-514)	Exercise 13
5/1/2015	Glacial Processes	Unit 45, 46, 47 (515-541)	Video Summary 8
5/5/2015	Periglacial Environments	Unit 48, 49 (542-561)	Exercise 14
5/8/2015	Coastal Processes, Coastal landforms, and landscapes	Unit 50 (562-575)	Quiz 7
5/12/2015	Physiographic realms and regions	(none)	Exercise 15
5/15/2015			Quiz 8, Final Paper due