

San José State University Department of Geography
Geog001: Geography of the Natural Environment, Section 1, Spring 2015

Classroom:	Clark 224
Class Days/Time:	Monday, Wednesday 9:00 – 10:15
Instructor:	Gary M. Pereira
Email:	gary.pereira@sjsu.edu
Office Location:	Washington Square Hall 111
Office Hours:	Monday 2:00 - 5:00, Thursday 4:00-5:00
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	B1

Course Description

The purpose of this class is to provide an introductory framework for a global understanding of our atmospheric, geological, hydrological, and biological environments. Readings and discussions will focus on three related themes. The first centers on atmospheric processes and their variation above and at the earth's surface. The second centers on land-forming and oceanic processes and their variation on a worldwide basis. The third centers on the dynamics of the biological world. The human influence is explored throughout the course.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

The class is an introductory course in physical geography for general education. The class does not assume any prior geographic training, and it will be taught on an introductory, undergraduate level.

GE/SJSU Studies Learning Outcomes (LO)

This course is approved for General Education Core Physical Science area, B1. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

LO1: use the methods of science and knowledge derived from current scientific inquiry in life or physical science to question existing explanations.

LO2: demonstrate ways in which science influences and is influenced by complex societies, including political and moral issues.

LO3: use the methods of science, including quantitative, analytical reasoning techniques.

Physical Science courses focus on: laws of thermodynamics; structure of matter; interaction of matter and energy; behavior of physical systems through time; systems of classification; and physical processes of the natural environment.

Required Texts/Readings

Lecture notes for tests 1, 2, and 3 are on Canvas. Documents on climate change in California, earthquake preparedness, and ecosystem assessments are also on Canvas. Additional required audio and video material for homework and discussion are on the web, as described below. Access to a reliable Internet connection for streaming video content is essential.

Classroom Protocol

Electronic note-taking technologies are allowed during class, but not for emailing, texting, or other tasks. Small devices like phones and music players are discouraged, as are earbuds or headsets. Common-sense attentiveness and respect are mandatory. If you need to take a call, please do so outside the room.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. Information on add/drops are available at <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-324.html>
Information about late drop is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/>
Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes.

Assignments and Grading Policy

1. **Exams:** There are three exams, each comprising 20% of the total grade. Partial study guides are available on Canvas. Each exam is in the form of extended responses to approximately ten predetermined questions, to be written in class without notes. The exams are based primarily on three sets of course notes available on Canvas, and on classroom discussions.

2. **Homework:** Two homework assignments must be completed as scheduled. The first asks you to review a set of videos and comprises 15% of the total grade. The second requires you to write a research report and comprises 20% of the total grade.

Homework #1:

Look through the **19 pages** of videos available at the following website <http://science.kqed.org/quest/video/>
Choose any eight videos, and write (in paragraph form, at least ½ page per video), a summary and brief discussion of what you found most interesting about each, or any new questions they bring to mind. Indicate the title of each chosen video as a subheading. You should have no trouble finding and discussing interesting topics, even though we will not have discussed the background for many of them by the due date. Please submit these essays on paper, 10 or 12 pt. font, with no cover sheet. Put: Your name, HW1, Pereira, geog001-1, spring 2015, at upper right and staple at upper left.

Homework #2: Having discussed climate change, you will choose a specific topic and explore it in a short report of approximately five pages. Internet sources are acceptable, but do not use Wikipedia or other informal sources. I will discuss this assignment repeatedly in class, and provide general advice in writing a college-level report. The text of your paper should be at least 3 pages long (excluding figures, images, references, etc.). There is no maximum length. Meaningful figures and images that are explicitly discussed in the text are encouraged, and these must all include attribution. Citations should be explicit and complete. Typically your paper should be at least 4 or 5 pages long in total. Please submit this report on paper, 10 or 12 pt. font, with no cover sheet. Put: Your name, HW2, Pereira, geog001-1, spring 2015, at upper right and staple at upper left.

3. **Participation and attentiveness:** Participation comprises 5% of your grade. Your participation is good to perfect if you are attentive, respectful, and **attend class regularly**.

Assignment 1	15%
Assignment 2	20%
Test 1	20%
Test 2	20%
Test 3	20%
Class Participation	5%
Total	100%

Grading information:

98% and above	A+
94% - 97%	A
93% - 90%	A-

89% - 87%	B+
86% - 84%	B
83% - 80%	B-
79% - 77%	C+
76% - 74%	C
73% - 70%	C-
69% - 67%	D+
66% - 64%	D
63% - 60%	D-
below 60%	F

University Policies

Academic integrity

Students should know that the University's Academic Integrity Policy is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S07-2.pdf

Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University and the University's integrity policy, require 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 website for Student Conduct and Ethical Development is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors.

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 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the DRC (Disability Resource Center) to establish a record of their disability.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and 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 digital and VHS camcorders, VHS and Beta video players, 16 mm, slide, overhead, DVD, CD, and audiotape players, sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

Learning Assistance Resource Center

The Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC) is located in Room 600 in the Student Services Center. It is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to motivate them to become self-directed learners. The center provides support services, such as skills assessment, individual or group tutorials, subject advising, learning assistance, summer academic preparation and basic skills development. The LARC website is located at

<http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/>

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall. It is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges. Our writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. The Writing Center website is located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/>

Peer Mentor Center

The Peer Mentor Center is located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall in the Academic Success Center. The Peer Mentor Center is staffed with Peer Mentors who excel in helping students manage university life, tackling problems that range from academic challenges to interpersonal struggles. On the road to graduation, Peer Mentors are navigators, offering "roadside assistance" to peers who feel a bit lost or simply need help mapping out the locations of campus resources. Peer Mentor services are free and available on a drop-in basis, no reservation required. The Peer Mentor Center website is located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/muse/peementor/>

Geog001 section 1 Spring 2015 Course Schedule

Please note that the course calendar is subject to change with fair notice, as announced in class and by email.

Week	Date	Topics, Assignments, Deadlines
1	1/26 1/28	Introduction to an evolving planet The Earth and Sun
2	2/2 2/4	The global energy balance Air temperature
3	2/9 2/11	Atmospheric moisture and precipitation Winds and global circulation
4	2/16 2/18	Weather systems Global climates
5	2/23 2/25	Climate change worldwide Climate change in California
6	3/2 3/4	Test 1: all topics thus far Earth materials and plate tectonics
7	3/9 3/11	Volcanic and tectonic landforms. Homework 1 is due. Earthquake preparedness and response.
8	3/16 3/18	Weathering and mass wasting; Landforms made by wind Fresh water hydrology
9	3/23 3/25	SPRING BREAK
10	3/30 4/1	Landforms made by running water Landforms shaped by waves
11	4/6 4/8	The oceans Glacial landforms and glaciations
12	4/13 4/15	Review Test 2: all topics since test 1
13	4/20 4/22	Global soils The co-evolution of life and the Earth system
14	4/27 4/29	Virunga (part 1) Virunga (part 2)
15	5/4 5/6	Ecological and biogeographical processes The biosphere and climate change
16	5/11 5/13	Ecosystem assessment. Homework 2 is due. The Anthropocene
Final	5/20	Test 3: all topics since test 2. 7:15 – 9:30 AM