

San José State University
College of Social Sciences/Geography
Geography 1: Geography of the Natural Environments, Section 1
Spring. 2016

Course & Contact Information

Instructor:	Maureen Kelley, PhD
Office Location:	Washington Square Hall 111A
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Email:	maureen.kelley@sjsu.edu
Office Hours	Mondays & Wednesdays 1530 to 1600 and Tuesdays 1500 to 1600, and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Mondays & Wednesdays 1030 to 1145
Classroom:	Clark Hall 224
Prerequisites:	NONE
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	Area B1: Physical Science

Course Format

This course will be conducted as a traditional lecture course with video presentations and scheduled in-class activities. Quizzes are on-line only and exams are in class traditional pen and paper format. The on-line quizzes require students to download and install the Respondus LockDown Browser on their personal, or laboratory, computer. Information about Respondus LockDown Browser can be found at <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/respondus/>. A practice quiz will be available for all students to familiarize themselves with the quiz format.

Course lecture slides; assignments, and quizzes will be posted on the Geography 1 Canvas web pages. However, do not rely on the website to catch everything presented in class. This is only a baseline. Do not use the website as a crutch, as well, and only show up for the day that we are having in-class assignments.

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.

The purpose of this class is to provide students an introductory framework for a global understanding of our natural environment. The course is constructed on three related themes or modules: atmospheric processes and their variation above and Earth's surface; landform and

oceanic processes and their variation on a worldwide basis; dynamics of the biological world. The human influence will be explored throughout the course.

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

General Education Learning Outcomes (GELO)

At the end of the course students will 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.

1. Readings: all chapters in textbook
2. Assignments: Geography ID 2–Location, Place, Region & Description, 3–Map Interpretation, 4–Weather, 5–Climate, 6–Seismic Hazards, 7–Geomorphology, 8–Soils, 9–Biomes; all quizzes and exams
3. Activities: In-class Field Mapping, Map Interpretation, Weather & Climate Analysis; all videos presented in class

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

1. Readings: Chapters 1–Essentials of Geography, 3–Earth's Modern Atmosphere, 5–Global Temperatures, 8–Weather, 11–Climate Change, 13–Tectonism, Earthquakes, & Volcanoes, 14–Karst & Mass Movement, 9–Water Resources, 15–River Systems, 16–Ocean & Coastal Systems, 17–Glacial & Periglacial Environments, 18–Soils, 20–Terrestrial Biomes; Jones & Benthien (2005) reading from the U.S. Geological Survey; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (n. d.) readings.
2. Assignments: Geography ID 4–Weather, 5–Climate, 6–Seismic Hazards, 7–Geomorphology, 8–Soils, 9–Biomes; Quizzes 2–Atmosphere, 3–Weather, 4–Climate, 5–Tectonism & Water Resources, 6–Geomorphology; all exams
3. Activities: In-class Weather & Climate Analysis, *Water properties explained —the Water Cycle* video

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

1. Readings: Chapters 1–Essentials of Geography, 4–Atmosphere & Surface Energy Balances, 5–Global Temperatures, 8–Weather, 10–Climate, 13–Tectonism, Earthquakes, & Volcanoes, 9–Water Resources, 16–Ocean & Coastal Systems, 18–Soils; Jones & Benthien (2005) reading from the U.S. Geological Survey reading
2. Assignments: Geography ID 3–Map Interpretation, 4–Weather, 5–Climate, 6–Seismic

Hazards; Quizzes 1–Geography Basics, 3–Weather, 5–Tectonism & Water Resources; Exams 1–Introduction & The Atmosphere, 2–Weather & Climate, 3–Tectonics & Geomorphology

3. Activities: In-class Field Mapping, Map Interpretation, Weather & Climate Analysis

Course Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course students will be able to

CLO1: Demonstrate understanding of and ability to analyze spatial relationships

1. Assignments: Geography ID 2–Location, Place, Region & Description, 3–Map Interpretation, 4–Weather, 5–Climate, 6–Seismic Hazards, 7–Geomorphology, 8–Soils, 9–Biomes; Quizzes 2–Earth's Atmosphere, 3–Weather, 4–Climate, 5–Tectonism & Water Resources; 6–Geomorphology; all exams.
2. Activities: In-class Field Mapping, Map Interpretation, Weather & Climate Analysis

CLO2: Define and use basic geographic tools and techniques

1. Assignments: Geography ID 2–Location, Place, Region & Description, 3–Map Interpretation, 4–Weather, 5–Climate, 8–Soils, 9–Biomes; Quiz 1–Geography Basics; Exam 1–Introduction & The Atmosphere
2. Activities: In-class Field Mapping, Map Interpretation, Weather & Climate Analysis, Soils & Biomes Analysis

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Christopherson, R. W. & Birkeland, G. H. (2015). *Geosystems: An introduction to physical geography* (9th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

The text's ISBN-13 number is 978-0-321-92698-2.

Students can buy or rent the textbook at the Spartan Bookstore. This text is also available as an e-text on vitalsource.com and for Amazon Kindle.

Required Readings

Jones, L. & Benthien, M. (2005). Putting down roots in earthquake country: Your handbook for the San Francisco Bay Region. USGS General Information Product 15. Retrieved from <http://pubs.usgs.gov/gip/2005/15/gip-15.pdf>.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (n. d.) Weather-ready nation: Be a force of nature. Retrieved from <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/com/weatherreadynation/force.html>.

Recommended Text

Veregin, H., & Rand McNally Staff. (2014). *Goode's world atlas* (22nd ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Rand McNally.

The text's ISBN-13 number is 978-0-528-87753-7.

Students can buy the textbook at the Spartan Bookstore or other booksellers.

Other Equipment/Materials

In addition to the Respondus LockDown Browser mentioned in **Course Format** above, students should have access to a global positioning system (GPS) unit or a GPS application on their smartphone. Students should also have access to or download Google Earth because we will be performing landscape analysis as well. If you do not have access to the above, then see me for accommodations.

Library Liaison

Nyle Monday is the Geography Department's library liaison. His email address is nyle.monday@sjsu.edu and his phone number is (408) 808-2041.

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 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

University policy F69-24 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."

Writing

The minimum writing requirement for this course is 1,500 words in a language and style appropriate to the discipline. This instructor requires that all submitted assignments must conform to the American Psychological Association's (APA) style.

Writing	Minimum Words
Geography ID	600
Report	500
Exam essays (4)	400
Total:	1,500

Writing will be assessed for clarity, accuracy, conciseness, as well as content. The writing requirement will be met through a combination of homework, in-class writing assignments, and essays on the final exam.

Correct use of English is a fundamental requirement for your papers to be graded. If errors in English make it difficult for a grader to understand your sentences, or excessively slow down the grader to mark your technical errors, your paper will be marked down 10% of your overall grade. An excess of nine errors per assignment will warrant a 10% reduction. The first ten identified errors in spelling, syntax, and grammar will be noted on your document. Therefore, it is up to you to proofread your homework assignment prior to submitting to Canvas. Please

review writing requirements on the Canvas website at <https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1189574/pages/formal-academic-writing-guidelines>.

Geography Identification (Geography ID) Assignments

There will be one project that we will work on throughout the semester and is worth 150 points, 30% of your grade. This project is segmented and most will be worked in class. This project is not designed as “busywork,” but help you understand your hometown's and university's physical environment using concepts introduced during the course of the semester. The project is broken down as follows: Part 1: biographical information about you; Part 2: locational information and descriptions about your hometown and university; Part 3: map scales and map interpretation of SJSU; Part 4: weather data, information, and hazards for your hometown and how you can be prepared; Part 5: climate data and climate change effects of your hometown and region; Part 6: seismic hazards of your hometown and region and how you can be prepared; Part 7: geologic landscapes, hazards, and human-induced damage of your hometown and region; Part 8: soils, agriculture, and soil degradation of your hometown and region; Part 9: ecosystems, biologic landscapes, and ecological damage of your hometown and region.

You are encouraged to come to class every time we meet, especially when we are working on the Geography ID project. If you miss a class, then it is up to you to catch up to the rest of the group. The Geography ID parts will be due in stages and not at the end of the semester. Therefore, please refer to the course syllabus at the end of this document for due dates or the Canvas Syllabus.

Geography Identification (Geography ID) Report

This assignment is considered to be a culminating experience based on what you learned from your Geography ID project. The report is worth 100 points, 20% of your grade. You are to describe a natural process or a physical landscape for your hometown or university. The report will be three to four pages, double-spaced, and include at least four graphics. You are free to explore in-depth a physical geography concept or natural process that was presented during the course of the semester.

Quizzes

There will be six on-line Canvas quizzes worth 10 points each covering materials presented in previous chapters in the textbook. Five of the six quiz points will be worth 10% of your final grade. The quizzes will be approximately every two weeks and are meant to help you study for your exams. Some questions from your quizzes will show up on the exams. Therefore, you should keep up taking the quizzes.

Class Participation

Plan to attend all class meetings. Active participation is a vital element of the course. This not only makes the class more interesting and enjoyable, but you are responsible for material discussed during class and you cannot earn an “A” without participating. Your class participation grade will include reading the text prior to attending class, contributing to discussions, and participating in class activities.

Many activities can only be completed in class and cannot be made up except in the case of a documented excused absence. Quality participation also includes volunteering information and ideas to discussions, coming prepared with completed homework assignments, asking and

answering questions, and being an active participant on Canvas.

Participation points are earned by emailing me the answers to questions posed each class session. The questions will be posted on the Canvas website on the Discussion board, https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1189574/discussion_topics, for each day's class discussion. Each day's participation point total is three points unless we are having a group activity where points will be doubled. Class participation is worth 100 points, 20% of your final grade.

Examinations

There will be four exams for this course. Each exam is worth 25 points, or 5% for each test; where the four represent 20% of your final grade. Each exam will consist of 20 one point multiple-choice questions and one of three selected essay questions worth five points. Most multiple-choice questions on the exam will come from prior weeks' quizzes.

Grading Policy

A strong performance in all areas of assessment is necessary to achieve the highest grade in this course. You will not be graded on attendance per se; however, there will be participation points for each class session.

Geography ID project parts not submitted on the due date will be marked down. There will be a 2% reduction in grade for each calendar day that your assignment is late. Any assignment that is overdue by two weeks (four class meetings—14 calendar days) is considered late and will receive a zero (0).

The Geography ID report must be submitted on the day of the final. Failure to submit the report on the due date will be considered late, will not be graded, and a 0 will be assigned.

On-line quizzes will be open for one academic week (five days) and you will have two attempts. The last attempt will be your final score. Your lowest quiz score will be dropped from your final grade calculation.

Participation points will be accepted for two weeks (four class meetings—14 calendar days) after the initial offering. It is your responsibility to know what are the participation points for each class session.

Scheduled exams are in-class and are open note, closed book. You are allowed only one 8.5" by 11" double-sided sheet of paper for notes. Make-up exams will be only for serious and compelling reasons.

It is your responsibility to inform me in advance if you know you must miss a class for a valid reason. Excused absences refer to illness, family responsibilities, and similar necessities. Exceptions to these policies will be made only in the case of officially documented emergencies. Contact me regarding emergencies as soon as possible—before an assignment is due rather than after it is already late—so special arrangements may be made.

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

Extra Credit

There will be one extra credit assignments worth five points. Extra credit can only be used once and only once. You must find me in my office and ask, “I found you in your office, can I get my extra credit points?”

Points Breakdown

Assignments	Points	Percent
Geography ID	150	30
Report	100	20
Participation	100	20
Exams (4)	100	20
Quizzes (5)	50	10
Total	500	10

Letter Grades: Percentage Ranges & Point Ranges

Letter Grade	Percent Range	Points Range	Letter Grade	Percent Range	Points Range
A+	97.00 to 100.00	485.00 to 500.00	C+	77.00 to 79.99	385.00 to 399.99
A	93.00 to 96.99	465.00 to 484.99	C	73.00 to 76.99	365.00 to 384.99
A-	90.00 to 92.99	450.00 to 464.99	C-	70.00 to 72.99	350.00 to 364.99
B+	87.00 to 89.99	435.00 to 449.99	D+	67.00 to 69.99	335.00 to 349.99
B	83.00 to 86.99	415.00 to 434.99	D	63.00 to 66.99	315.00 to 334.99
B-	80.00 to 82.99	400.00 to 414.99	D-	60.00 to 62.99	300.00 to 314.99
			F	0.00 to 59.99	0.00 to 299.99

Classroom Protocol

We all want to be in a positive learning environment. Course content can be challenging. I expect everyone to be respectful of opinions, other students, and the instructor. I will make every effort to be prepared for class, start and end class on time, and be available during my office hours for help. I expect my students to be prepared for class, come to class on time, and turn in assignments on time. I expect all students to refrain from reading non-course-related materials during class, no passing notes, no talking, no sleeping, and so forth. The use of any personal communication devices during class time is not allowed. Computers are allowed for course-related work only.

University Policies

General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student

As members of the academic community, students accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. Students 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 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf> and SJSU current semester's Policies and Procedures at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. In general, it is recommended that students begin by seeking clarification or discussing concerns with their instructor. If such conversation is not possible, or if it does not serve to address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as a next step.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, and so forth. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the Academic Calendars webpage at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The Late Drop 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 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. If there is to be active participation of students or guests 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 José State University. The University Academic Integrity Policy S07–2 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 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 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 (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 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 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' free tutoring and mentoring is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to inspire them to become independent learners. Peer Connections tutors are trained to provide content-based tutoring in many lower division courses (some upper division) as well as writing and study skills assistance. Small group and individual tutoring are available. Peer Connections mentors are trained to provide support and resources in navigating the college experience. This support includes assistance in learning strategies and techniques on how to be a successful student. Peer Connections has a learning commons, desktop <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter> <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcentercomputers>, and success workshops on a wide variety of topics. For more information on services, hours, locations, or a list of current workshops, please visit Peer Connections website 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 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 the code)



SJSU Counseling & Psychological Services

The SJSU Counseling and Psychological Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Carlos Street in the new Student Wellness Center, Room 300B. 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 and Psychological Services website at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling> .

Geography 1: Geography of the Natural Environment, Spring 2016 Course Schedule

Schedule is subject to change with fair notice

Review Canvas Home Page at <https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1189574> for more information

Week	Date	Topic	Readings	Activities/ Assignments	Due	
1	02/01	Introduction		Pt. 1		
1	02/03	Essentials of geography	Ch. 1 (Christopherson)			
2	02/08	Essentials of geography (con't)		Pt. 2A		
2	02/10	Essentials of geography (con't)		Field Exercise Pt. 2B		
3	02/15	Essentials of geography (con't)		Pt. 3 Quiz 1 (on-line)	Pt. 1	
3	02/17	Solar energy	Ch. 2 (Christopherson)			
4	02/22	Earth's modern atmosphere	Ch. 3 (Christopherson)		Pt. 2A	
4	02/24	Atmosphere & surface energy balances	Ch. 4 (Christopherson)		Pt. 2B	
5	02/29	Global temperatures	Ch. 5 (Christopherson)	Quiz 2 (on-line)	Pt. 3	
5	03/02	Atmospheric & oceanic circulation patterns	Ch. 6 (Christopherson)			
6	03/07	EXAM 1 (Chapters 1 to 6)				
6	03/09	Water & atmospheric moisture	Ch. 7 (Christopherson)	Video: <i>Water properties explained—The water cycle</i>		
7	03/14	Weather	Ch. 8 (Christopherson); NOAA (n. d.)	Quiz 3 (on-line)		
7	03/16	Weather (con't)		Pt. 4		
8	03/21	Global climate systems	Ch. 10 (Christopherson)	Pt. 5		
8	03/23	Climate change	Ch. 11 (Christopherson)			
9	03/02	SPRING RECESS—NO CLASS				
9	04/01	SPRING RECESS—NO CLASS				
10	04/04	EXAM 2 (Chapters 7 to 11)				Pt. 4
10	04/06	The dynamic planet	Ch. 12 (Christopherson)			
11	04/11	Tectonics, earthquakes, volcanism	Ch. 13 (Christopherson); Jones & Bentheim (2005)	Pt. 6 Quiz 4 (on-line)	Pt. 5	
11	04/13	Weathering, karst, mass movement	Ch. 14 (Christopherson)	Pt. 7		
12	04/18	Water resources part 2	Ch. 9 (235–255) (Christopherson)			
12	04/20	River systems	Ch. 15 (Christopherson)			

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Week	Date	Topic	Readings	Activities/ Assignments	Due
13	04/25	Oceans & coastal systems	Ch 16 (454–480, 490–493) (Christopherson)	Quiz 5 (on-line)	Pt. 5
13	04/27	Wind processes	Ch 16 (481–489, 490–493) (Christopherson)		
14	05/02	Glacial & periglacial landscapes	Ch 17 (Christopherson)		
14	05/04	EXAM 3 (Chapters 12 to 17)			Pt. 7
15	05/09	Geography of soils	Ch. 18 (Christopherson)	Pt. 8 Quiz 6 (on-line)	
15	05/11	Ecosystem landscapes	Ch. 19 (Christopherson)	Pt. 9	
16	05/16	Terrestrial biomes	Ch. 20 (Christopherson)		Pt. 8
17	05/24	EXAM 4 (Chapters 18 to 20) CL 224 (0945 to 1200)			Report Pt. 9