

San José State University
College of Social Sciences / Geography and Global Studies
Geography 001-03, Geography of Natural Environments
Course #23995 - Spring, 2016

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Tiffany Seeley
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Office Hours:	Thursdays from 10:30 - 11:30 AM; or by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Online
Classroom:	Online
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	B1

Course Format

This course will be conducted entirely online so you will need regular access to a computer with a webcam and reliable internet connection to successfully complete this course. This course will utilize SJSU's course management system Canvas for all communication and assignment submission. Exams will use either ProctorU or Respondus Lockdown for exams. For a list of technical requirements for ProctorU, use this link: <http://www.proctoru.com/tech.php>. For information about Respondus, click here: <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/respondus/>

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.

In essence, this class provides an overview of the Earth's awe-inspiring physical landscape through introducing the processes and systems that have helped to shape it. The main emphasis of this course is on using geographic inquiry to investigate *how* and *why* something (in this case, physical processes and systems) happens *where* it happens. For an overview of the many fascinating processes we will be learning about this semester, please see the course schedule on page 6.

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.*

- On quizzes and exams you will not only be asked about the features of the natural environment and how they came to be, but also provide explanations on how these systems function.
- In assignments on the adiabatic process, clouds, climates, plate tectonics and others will provide constant opportunities to test, apply, and question the physical processes that are discussed in this course.

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

- The photo essays will provide an opportunity for you to discover our impact on the environment and physical geography of the Bay Area.

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

- Exams and activities will include questions that test your ability to read and interpret data, graphs, and maps related to the topics we will encounter throughout the semester.
- One of your homework assignments includes collection and interpretation of weather data.
- You will need to use analytical reasoning techniques in order to successfully complete the final project where you will find real-world examples of the physical processes that we discuss in class.

This class has a writing requirement of at least 1500 words. Your photo essay project will have a minimum word requirement of 1,200 words. In addition to this, the Fog Log assignment (250 words) and at least 4 in-depth written exam questions (150-200 words ea). There may be other various homework and in-class assignments that include writing.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook: The textbook for this class is *Physical Geography: A Landscape Appreciation* by Hess, Publisher: Prentice Hall. ISBN: 9780321863966. You do not need to get the current edition! Any edition between 9 and 11 is fine. There is also a California version of this book that you may use (any edition). The book can be found at the SJSU book store and various sources online.

Other materials: It may be helpful to have different colored pencils, pens, or highlighters to help with your note-taking assignments.

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>.

Note that University policy F6925 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F6924.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.”

Grading Policy

Your grade in this course is based on your performance on exams, weekly Cornell notes on readings, weekly peer-learning discussions, miscellaneous practice assignments, and a final project.

ASSIGNMENT	POINTS	PERCENTAGE	LETTER GRADE
4 Online Exams	240 points (60 each)	90% - 100%	A
Cornell Reading Notes	140 points (10 each)	80% - 89 %	B
Peer-Learning Discussions	70 points (5 each)	70% - 79%	C
Miscellaneous Assignments	Approx. 50 points (5-10 each)	60% - 69%	D
Photo Essay Project	100 points	59% and below	F
(approximate) 600 total points			

While I do my best to make sure that your grades are up-to-date and as accurate as possible, I do make mistakes sometimes. If you have any issues with a grade that I have given you, please log your concern/issue in the Grade Issues “assignment” on Canvas. This helps me keep track of any grade changes and keep them all in one space where they will not get lost or forgotten. **I will not process any grade changes via email - please do not email me about grade issues.**

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

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

Course Assignments:

The course assignments will follow a relatively rigid schedule in order to facilitate structure in this course. Here is the *general* weekly schedule weekly of assignments - see class schedule for exam dates:

WEEKLY FLOW OF ASSIGNMENTS						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Work on Chapter Notes and Activities (Due Fridays)						
				Post your peer-learning question.	Post responses to peer learning discussion questions.	
all assignments will always be due at 11:59pm on the due date						

A detailed description of the course assignments can be found below:

Cornell Chapter Notes and Reading Assignments - due every week on Fridays

For many students, one of the challenges of an online course is the switch from being a passive learner to an active one. Unlike a traditional lecture class, online learning often takes a lot more effort on your part to absorb and properly learn the material necessary for you to succeed in your course.

The main method of learning in this course will utilize the textbook and the Cornell note-taking system. For each relevant textbook chapter, you will receive a list of sections that you need to study along with a guide on which information in the textbook is important for you to understand. For each of these sections, you will be taking a minimum of 2 pages of handwritten Cornell-style notes that cover the main points of the textbook. More detailed information about this assignment is available on Canvas.

This assignment will help facilitate your learning in a couple of ways. Firstly, it will help provide the structure that is often lost in an online learning environment. The frequency and repetition of assignments should help you get into a good rhythm so that you are able to put in the amount of work necessary to learn the information. Remember, this is a science class - simply reading the textbook chapter is not enough to absorb the information. Secondly, these notes will help you organize your own thoughts and understanding of the material so that you can properly participate in the peer-learning portion of this course (explained next).

Peer-Learning Discussions - every week Friday - Sunday

One of the advantages of online courses is the access that you have both to your instructor and your classmates. One way you will take advantage of this is through weekly peer-learning discussions. Each week you - after you have turned in your notes - you will solicit clarification from your classmates on a specific area of the readings that you didn't quite understand. Once these questions are posted by each of your classmates, you will all respond to at least 2 other questions that were posed. While some topics in the book are inherently more difficult to understand - there will inevitably be some topics that some students have a good grasp on while other students don't. Working together to answer the questions you guys have about the material will help you solidify the information for the exams.

Note: As your instructor, I will be monitoring these discussions and also participating in them if I notice that certain topics need clarification, correction, or guidance.

Exams - see course schedule for dates

In this class there will be a total of 4 online exams. These will not be cumulative. Much of the information you learn in this class, however, builds on previous content. You will need to know the material and concepts from the early chapters in the book to understand the concepts you will be tested on later on in the course.

The exams will use multiple choice, matching, fill in the blank questions that evaluate your comprehension and application of the major processes that we discuss in class. These questions not only test your ability to identify the concepts and processes, but also your ability to apply them. For this reason, it is imperative that you make sure you have a thorough understanding of the processes - please do not hesitate to ask questions and utilize the resources that I have provided for you online!

Please refer to the study guides on Canvas for more information about the content you will be tested on.

Papers: Photo Essays of the Physical Geography of the Bay Area - due final week of class

This assignment is designed to help you get out of the classroom to discover physical geography in the Bay Area! The vast majority of processes covered in this class be found right here in our own backyard. For this project, you will take photos of places in the Bay Area that demonstrate evidence of physical processes that we have discussed in class and provide an explanation of what is happening in that landscape. You will receive more detailed instructions for this project within the first 2 weeks of the semester.

Miscellaneous Assignments - approximately one each week

On most weeks I will provide one or two “practice” activities that should help your understanding of the material beyond what is available in the textbooks. These will be worth 5-10 points each, depending on the effort involved to complete them.

Extra Credit, and Make-up Exams

I will drop your lowest score for the Cornell notes, weekly discussion, and assignments. In general, I won't accept late work, but exceptions MAY be made on a case-by-case basis - usually only for very serious circumstances.

If a scheduled exam time does not work for you, you need to email me at least a week in advance to set up an alternate time to take the exam.

Extra credit opportunities involve attending a geography related field trip or event during the semester and writing 350 word essay on what you learned and how it relates to the concepts or themes we've learned in this class. These will be graded at the very end of the semester. The total maximum number of points you can receive from this or any other extra credit assignment will be no greater than the equivalent of 2% percentage points.

Classroom Protocol

Academic Senate policy on classroom behavior (S90-5), at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/s90-5.htm>, applies to this class.

Technical Difficulties

If you are having difficulties uploading an assignment online you MUST message me the assignment by the due date. I WILL NOT, however, grade any assignments that are sent to me via email or the messaging app on Canvas. It is your responsibility to make sure that whatever technological issues you have are resolved and the assignment is either uploaded online or printed out and handed to me within ONE WEEK of the due date.

Guidelines for Email

One of the best parts of using Canvas for this course is the opportunity to keep all of the resources for this course in one place online. While email is great, I actually prefer that you use the messaging system in Canvas so that I have a thread of all the communication we've had throughout the course. If you email me, I will send you a polite reminder to please message me through Canvas instead.

I will generally check Canvas the day between 10am and 7pm, Monday through Friday. I always do my best to try to message you back within 24 hours. Please note, however, that I may not be available to respond as quickly on the weekends.

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. To learn important campus information, view 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 address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as the next step.

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, or see me during office hours. [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 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, 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 and Psychological Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, 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 Natural Environments Section 3, Fall 2016 Course Schedule

The following schedule is subject to change: you should always follow dates for assignments or exams that are in CANVAS if there is a conflict in dates between Canvas and the schedule below.

Course Schedule

CLASS WEEK	CHAPTERS COVERED	EXAMS AND PROJECTS:
Week 1	Ch. 1 Introducing the Earth	
Week 2	Ch. 3 Introduction to the Atmosphere	
Week 3	Ch. 4 Insolation and Temperature	
Week 4	Ch. 5 Atmospheric Pressure and Wind	
Week 5	Ch. 6 Atmospheric Moisture	EXAM #1 - Ch 1, 3-5
Week 6	Ch. 7 Atmospheric Disturbances	
Week 7	Ch. 8 Climate	
Week 8	Ch. 8 Climate Change	
Week 9	Ch. 11 Terrestrial Flora and Fauna	EXAM #2 - Ch 6 - 8
Week 10	SPRING BREAK!	
Week 11	Ch. 13 Intro to Landform Study	
Week 12	Ch. 14 The Internal Process	
Week 13	Ch. 15 Weathering and Mass Wasting	EXAM #3 - Ch 11- 15
Week 14	Ch. 16 Fluvial Process and Terrain & Ch. 20 Coastal Process Ch. 20 Coastal Processes and Terrain	
Week 15	Ch 19 Glacial Modification of Terrain	
Week 16	<u>Finish up Final Project</u>	FINAL PROJECT DUE Sunday at Midnight
Week 17	FINAL EXAM	EXAM #4 - Ch 11- 15