

San José State University
Geography Department
Geography 1, Geography of Natural Environments,
Section 1, Spring, 2017

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Edward Collins
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Email:	edward.collins@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Available online and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Monday, Wednesday, 9:00-10:15
Classroom:	Clark Hall Room 224
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	B1 (Science and Mathematical Concepts)

Course Format

Technology Intensive, Hybrid, and Online Courses (Required if applicable)

This is a lecture class format using Canvas, and computer access is required for quizzes, making this a hybrid class. I will send informational e-mails and posting lecture PowerPoint presentations and supporting material on Canvas, including assignments and quizzes. Quizzes are online, and tests are in-class. Computer access is available on campus. I am available via e-mail, by phone, or by appointment.

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](#) at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through [MySJSU](#) at <http://my.sjsu.edu> to learn of any updates.

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.

GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

Upon successful completion of this 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.*

- 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

Recommended Textbook

The recommended class textbook is *Physical Geography* by H. J. de Blij, Peter O. Muller, James E. Burt and Joseph A. Mason (ISBN-13: 9780199859610). You can use an electronic or hard-copy version. A copy is in the library loan section. Sources include VitalSource (<https://www.vitalsource.com/>), and online books sellers. The VitalSource URL for the book is <https://www.vitalsource.com/products/physical-geography-the-global-environment-h-j-de-blij-peter-o-v9780199859610>.

Other Readings

There will be occasional reading material either as class handouts or posted on Canvas. 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

Your Library Liaison is Nyle Monday, and he may be reached online via nyle.monday@sjsu.edu, and by phone at 408-808-2041. He also has a web link at the library: http://libguides.sjsu.edu/prf.php?account_id=41844.

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 including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

Quizzes

There are regular on-line quizzes, covering the reading material for each chapter. Questions will be drawn from the textbook course bank as well as the lectures, and the start dates are specified in the calendar below. Quizzes will be available for a minimum of one week. **(Quizzes support GELO 1, GELO 2 and GELO 3.)**

Papers

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

First Video Essay (This essay, and two more, will be announced on Canvas.)

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 near 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, resource access, and human activities will be altered to various extents.)

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.)***

Written Assignment Details for All Papers:

1. Use complete sentences and a paragraph structure. Do not use run-on sentences.
2. Your paper should have an introduction, a body, and a conclusion.
3. Bullet point responses will not be graded.
4. Write between the minimum word count and twice the minimum word count.
5. Use 12 point font and double spaced text.
6. Submit each article with your class name and number, your name, assignment description, and a title.
7. Do not work together on your papers. Non-unique work earns a grade of zero.

All assignments must be submitted twice: both on paper (for grading markup) and via electronic submission to Canvas (to check for plagiarism). Plagiarism will not be tolerated. (See the Academic Integrity section below.) Assignments are due **in class** on the date specified **in the schedule**. **Late papers or late submissions to Canvas receive a 10% penalty for each day or fraction of a day late. (Any assignment submitted 10 or more days late earns a zero.)** Use the Schedule and Canvas to track these due dates.

Exams

Exam dates are shown in the schedule. Exams will include a combination of multiple choice questions. The multiple choice topics will be taken from the online quiz content. You will have seen all the quiz questions before each exam, and I will modify about half of the questions and answers. You should master the concepts

behind all answers in the quizzes, including the “wrong” answers. (Changing the question may make a different answer right.) **(Exams Support GELOs 1, 2, and 3)**

Makeup Exams

If a student has documented proof of an emergency, serious accident, hospitalization, surgery, family member burial, academic conflict, active military duty, jury duty, legal court appointment or other crisis that justifies missing an exam, then I will generate a new exam. If a student does not have a written justification, the student will receive a zero for the missed exam.

Participation Exercises

Participation requires your presence and your active work. Each participation activity will involve a drawing, a paragraph, a set of questions, or a set of question responses. If you aren’t there, you can’t participate, so you need to attend class. Your participation will help you understand the course material, and will help me gauge your understanding of the material we are covering. If you participate fully, you will receive full credit, and if you are only partially participating, you receive partial credit. I will drop your lowest two participation scores, and average the rest for participation credit. This allows a few missed classes in case life becomes difficult. However, I recommend coming to all of the classes to maximize your learning and improve your grade.

Extra Credit

A maximum of 5% extra credit may be earned by each student. Assignments will be given in class, and are due later both in-class and online as canvas submissions.

[University policy F69-24](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf> states, “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.”

Final Examination or Evaluation

Your Final Exam Period is Thursday, December 15th, from 7:15 to 9:30 AM. Your final Exam covers Units 36 to 50.

Final Examination

Your final exam (Test 3) is at 7:15 a.m. on 5/22/2017

Grading Information

Tests and quizzes are multiple choice. Quiz and test questions will be taken from the book and lecture material, and approximately half of the test questions will be taken from quiz questions. Quizzes allow multiple attempts, and this facilitates learning. Half of the test material is taken directly from quizzes, and half covers material covered in quizzes, class presentations, and readings.

Papers 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 research (paper 1) or responses (paper 2)	-20%
Poor introduction	-5%
Poor conclusion	-5%
Poor citations	-10%
Missing citations	-20%

Determination of Grades

The class grading is composed of **tests (45% of total grade)**, **quizzes (20% of total grade)**, **paper assignments (15% of total grade)**, and **participation exercises (15% of total grade)**. (The lowest 2 quizzes and 2 exercises will be dropped.) Your final grade is based on these four 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 10% 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.

Total class grade weighting is determined using the following scale:

Topic	Weighting	
Quizzes	20%	Drop the lowest 2 quiz grades
Papers	20%	Hard-copy in class and Canvas submission are both required.
Participation Exercises	15%	You must be in class to participate for credit.
Test 1	15%	In-class, multiple choice
Test 2	15%	In-class, multiple choice
Test 3	15%	In-class, multiple choice
Extra Credit	5%	Hard-copy in class and Canvas submission are both required.

Classroom Protocol

All students shall treat all other people, including peers and professors, respectfully, professionally and courteously. Academic Senate policy: University Policy, Student Rights and Responsibilities (S16-15), at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-15.pdf>, applies to this class. Activity that distracts students' ability to learn are strongly discouraged. Distractions such as cell phone use (including texting), watching or working on non-class topics, surfing, or other non-class computer use are not acceptable. If you need to conduct any of these activities, please leave the classroom, and return after you are done.

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/>

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.”
(Request written consent in my class.)
 - “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 F15-7 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-7.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 1, Spring, 2017 Course Schedule

This schedule is subject to change with fair notice via e-mail.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings	Assignments, Tests, Deadlines
1	1/30/2017	Unit 1	
1	2/1/2017	Units 2, 3	
2	2/6/2017	Units 4, 5	Quiz 1 (Units 1-5)
2	2/8/2017	Units 6, 7	
3	2/13/2017	Units 8, 9	
3	2/15/2017	Units 10, 11	Quiz 2 (Units 6-10)
4	2/20/2017	Units 12, 13	
4	2/22/2017	Units 14, 15	Quiz 3 (Units 11-14)
5	2/27/2017	Units 16, 17	
5	3/1/2017	Units 18, 19	Quiz 4 (Units 15-19)
6	3/6/2017	review (1-19)	
6	3/8/2017	exam	Test 1 (Units 1-19)
7	3/13/2017	Units 20, 21	
7	3/15/2017	Units 22, 23	Quiz 5 (Units 20-23)
8	3/20/2017	Units 24, 25, 26	
8	3/22/2017	Units 27, 28	Quiz 6 (Units 24-26)
9	3/27/2017	break	(no class)
9	3/29/2017	break	(no class)
10	4/3/2017	Units 29, 30	Quiz 7 (Units 27-30)
10	4/5/2017	Units 31, 32	
11	4/10/2017	Units 33, 34	Quiz 8 (Units 31-34)
11	4/12/2017	review (20-34)	
12	4/17/2017	exam	Test 2 (Units 27-34)
12	4/19/2017	Units 35, 36	
13	4/24/2017	Units 37, 38	Quiz 9 (Units 35-37)
13	4/26/2017	Units 39, 40	
14	5/1/2017	Units 41, 42	Quiz 10 (Units 38-41)
14	5/3/2017	Units 43, 44, 45	
15	5/8/2017	Units 46, 47, 48	Quiz 11 (Units 42-45)
15	5/10/2017	Units 48, 49, 50	
16	5/15/2017	review (35-50)	Quiz 12 (Units 46-50)
16	5/17/2017	study day	(no class)
finals	5/22/2017	exam	Test 3 (Units 33-50)
Your final exam (Test 3) is at 7:15 a.m. on 5/22/2017			