

San José State University
Department of Environmental Studies
ENVS 198, Senior Seminar, Fall 2014

Instructor:	Rachel O'Malley
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Office Hours:	Wednesdays 10-12, and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Tuesdays 4:30-7:15
Classroom:	Engineering Building 232
Prerequisites:	All students must have filed for graduation and completed the Environmental Studies core, including ENVS 100W. Taken in final semester.

Faculty Web Page

Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, etc. may be found on my faculty web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/people/rachel.omalley/courses/seniorseminar>. Assignments will be turned in through Canvas to be evaluated by turnitin.com

Course Description

This course is designed to be the culmination of our interdisciplinary curriculum in environmental studies through integration and critical assessment of the field. The goal is to transition from an undergraduate experience to full professionalism.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

This course is designed to allow each student to probe more deeply into topics introduced in your undergraduate career until now. The class affords the opportunity to network with local and international employers, and to expand your training to prepare you better for local or international work in the environment.

The course is run with a project-oriented approach. Each student will become an expert through primary research and fieldwork in the topic he or she selects for the course, and each will teach the other students about this subject through a combination of readings, presentations and a written report.

This course also has the goal of reinforcing all four of the Department of Environmental Studies Program Learning Objectives, listed below. These objectives encompass the knowledge and skills we expect all Environmental Studies graduates to possess.

Department of Environmental Studies Program Learning Objectives

- 1) *Qualitative Environmental Literacy*: Students are able to write a logical analytical paper using good writing style and construction supported by appropriate research.
Goal: Achieve good to excellent level of environmental research, writing and analysis in a 15-page paper. Assignments require students to:
 - 1) perform independent literature review on a self-chosen topic using 10 to 20 relevant scholarly/technical articles with little assistance and
 - 2) perform critical interdisciplinary evaluations using criteria discussed in the course and provide recommendations for sustainable solutions.

- 2) *Quantitative Environmental Literacy*: Students are able to determine, apply and interpret appropriate basic statistical or other quantitative analyses to environmental data (Chi-square, ANOVA, Regression)
Goal: Be able to develop a study designed to use particular analyses that test a hypothesis or specific research question. Students will design their own study to test a hypothesis or research question, collect data, run appropriate analyses and interpret them; they will be able to read scholarly papers and be able to understand basic analytical methods, graphs and results.

- 3) *Content Environmental Literacy*: Students will develop proficiency in the interdisciplinary sustainability principles that are the foundation of environmental studies; they will know the key environmental challenges facing the planet, know relevant interdisciplinary information about these challenges, and be able to develop/identify feasible solutions
Goal: Students develop expertise in identifying complex environmental issues, find accurate natural science and social science information on all key aspects of those issues and are able to develop feasible, sustainable solutions using central principles of sustainability. Assignments require students to:
 - 1) master sustainability terminology,
 - 2) identify subtle/complex environmental problems;
 - 3) provide thorough information on all sides of the issue,
 - 4) develop logical analysis with feasible solutions, and
 - 5) clearly convey the issue, information and solutions in both written and verbal form.

- 4) *Professional Skills*:
 - A) Students are able to productively conduct group/team work to deliver professional quality presentations and reports;
 - B) Students demonstrate professional work skills.Goal: Demonstrate professional work skills and apply knowledge gained in the degree in a career setting. Students will work productively with groups and demonstrate professionalism in their work.

Library Liaison

The Environmental Studies Library Liaison is Peggy Cabrera. She is wonderful! Plan to use her assistance. Peggy.Cabrera@sjsu.edu, or 408-808-2034.

Classroom Protocol

Expectations:

- 1. Attendance and preparation:** Each student will be expected to attend all class meetings and to complete all assignments before the class period.
- 2. Discussions:** We will have discussions each week. Participation in these discussions represents a portion of your grade. It is imperative that all students be respectful and considerate to each other. All opinions are welcome and critical analysis is encouraged.
- 3. Written work and presentations:** All assignments will be handed in through Canvas
- 4. Grading:**

Assignment	Description	Score
Participation	Peer-review of other students, discussion participation	10
Prospectus	Potential research areas	1
Project Idea and Background	More complete idea for your research project and why, interview with expert or practitioner	4
Literature Review	A brief review of the literature relative to your project	10
Draft Methods a. Study design, data collection and analysis	Proposed methods to address your study hypotheses and questions	5
b. timeline budget, qualifications	Proposed timeline for completion, budget, and resume	5
Research Proposal	A complete professional proposal for your research including methods to collect and analyze data on your question	10
Data Report-backs	Two verbal report-backs on the progress of your data collection/analysis	10
Draft Results		5
Draft Discussion/Conclus./recommendations	Draft report including all previous components plus results and discussion	5
Draft Poster	Produce a draft poster of your work	5
Poster & Presentation	Revise your poster present it publicly	10
Final Report	High-quality bound professional research report	20

Grading

If you earn:	You will receive:
90 - 100 %	A- (90-92), A (93 - 97), A+ (>97)
80 - 89 %	B- (80-82), B (83 - 86), B+ (87-89)
70 - 79 %	C- (70-72), C (73 - 76), C+ (77-79)
60 - 69%	D- (60-62), D (63 - 66), D+ (67-69)
< 50 %	F

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/>.

Key dates are:

Drop Deadline: Friday Sept. 5, is the last day to drop a class without a “W” grade.

Add Deadline: Friday, September 12, is the last day to add a course.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

University Policies

Academic integrity

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University's Academic Integrity policy S07-2](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm), located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm>, 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/>.

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 your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 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 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 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>.

Course Schedule

week	Date	Topic	Assignments Due
1	26-Aug	Course introduction; Research projects and your future; Developing Research Questions/Hypotheses Discussion: Your environmental interests	In-class writing
2	2-Sep	What' your problem? Choose topics, proposal writing	Contact Agencies, Prospectus
3	9-Sep	Scientific Method; How to read a peer-reviewed paper; How to conduct literature research Activity: Library Instruction	Project Idea and Background, Interview
4	16-Sep	Research Methods: Quantitative and Qualitative Research Discussion: Key literature you found Activity: Narrow your hypothesis, methods	Literature review
5	23-Sep	Conducting Field Research, Data Collection Methods Discussion: Methods relevant to your topic for discussion	Bring a methods paper to share
6	30-Sep	Setting up a Spreadsheet for Data Analysis Discussion: Honing your data collection and analysis methods; budgeting, resume	Draft study design, data collection and analysis strategy
7	7-Oct	Individual meetings: Progress on your proposal/preliminary data	Draft timeline, budget and qualifications (Resume/CV)
8	14-Oct	Statistics Lab: Quantitative Activity: Bring your laptop with MyStat and some of your data (or test data) loaded	Whole research proposal due; preliminary data
9	21-Oct	Statistics review Round table: Discuss data collection to-date--progress/problems Preparing the Draft Paper (results, discussion & recommendations)	(Report-back—data)
10	28-Oct	peer review - work on stats/report in class	
11	4-Nov	Lab: Conducting Analyses on YOUR data with Systat (Bring your laptop with MyStat and your spreadsheet with data)	(Report-back- analysis, results)
12	11-Nov	Veterans day holiday – no class	
13	18-Nov	Developing a Poster and the Final Paper Resume Session	Draft poster/slide
14	25-Nov	Draft Poster Presentations (ppt)	Written -- draft Results
15	2-Dec	Draft Poster Presentations (ppt)	Written -- draft Discussion/ Conclusions/Recommendations
16	9-Dec	Poster Session, Potluck	Final Poster
Final Exam: Tuesday, 16 Dec, 4:30 p.m			Bound reports/final project due