

San José State University
College of Social Science/Department of Environmental Studies
ENVS 106 (27804), Exploring Ocean Environments, Spring 2022

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Rachel Lazzeri-Aerts
Class Days/Times/Location:	Tue/Thur 12:00-1:15pm Access all class Modules, materials, assignments through Canvas LMS In-person Meetings: Clark 224
Contact Me:	Canvas Messages/Inbox (preferred) or rachel.lazzeriaerts@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	after class and by appointment

Course Overview and Description

Throughout human history, numerous aspects of human life and society—including trade and economies, cultural and social practices, ecological knowledge, recreation and leisure, and more—are shaped and defined by the world’s oceans. Oceans have been sites of the unknown that have inspired human imagination, terrified humans, and become forgotten spaces even though oceans cover about 70% of the earth’s surface. And humans have altered the global marine environment without concern for our deep connection to the sea. Yet, until recently the oceans haven’t received more than a cursory nod in many fields of study.

This course is an interdisciplinary examination of human connections and interactions with oceans, marine environments, and the species that inhabit them. We will explore topics, people, and case studies from across global societies and spanning historic to modern times to understand our perceptions, knowledge, connections, and impacts on and to marine communities, species, and resources. The course materials and activities will provide students with an understanding of the ways in which different disciplines, from biology and ecology to history and art, have defined and influenced our relationship with the oceans.

Learning Objectives

Course Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Demonstrate a broad understanding of how people have experienced, understood, and transformed the world’s ocean environments throughout human history.
- 2) Develop an interdisciplinary repertoire of methods and theories for documenting, mapping, and analyzing changes in the global marine environment and the societies that use them.
- 3) Explain how ocean environments shape human societies and cultures, how humans alter ocean environments, and how ocean history can inform current policy, management debates, and conservation practice.

Information Literacy Learning Objectives

- 1) An information literate student determines the nature and extent of the information needed. The information literate student defines and articulates the need for information, as well as identifies a variety of types and formats of potential sources for information.
- 2) An information literate student evaluates information and its sources critically and incorporates selected information into his/her knowledge base. Students summarize the main ideas to be extracted from the information gathered, articulates and applies criteria for evaluating both the information and its sources, and synthesizes main ideas to construct new concepts.
- 3) The information literate student understands the economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of information, and accesses and uses information ethically and legally.

Required Course Materials

Readings and Learning Materials

All course readings will be available on Canvas as PDFs, links to web-based sources, or as e-books through the MLK Library. Additional materials, such as videos or interactive maps, will be available through Canvas.

Technology

You will need consistent access to a computer with an Internet connection. You should be using the latest version of Chrome, Firefox, Edge, Respondus Lockdown Browser (as applicable), or Safari, and can view a complete list of [Supported Browsers through Canvas Guides](#). We will be using Zoom for class activities and communication. Additionally, we will sometimes be using video recordings to share thoughts and ideas as part of activities or discussions. Canvas has a built-in Media Recorder that is easy to use.

Students are expected to have the following basic computer skills:

- Utilize Canvas LMS and associated tools/features
- Microsoft Office including Word, Excel, and PowerPoint
- File management including downloading, uploading, creating, editing, and saving
- Email including sending, receiving, and managing attachments
- University library searches
- Navigating internet searches, websites, and interactive components

Please note that I do not provide technical help beside instructions on how to access or utilize a particular application. If you need computer or technical help, please utilize the following resources:

- [Student Canvas Help Guide](#)
- [SJSU eCampus Support](#)
 - ecampus@sjsu.edu
 - 408-924-2337
- In Canvas, click the “Help” button in the left-side menu for several options.

Library Liaison

Peggy Cabrera (peggy.cabrera@sjsu.edu or 408-808-2034) is the Library Liaison for the Department of Environmental Studies. She is a great resource. Email her for help via email or to set up a Zoom appointment.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Class Format

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this course will be completed partly online through Canvas (the Learning Management System used by SJSU) and Zoom, and partly through in-person class meetings. Class content, readings, video lectures, assessments, and activities will be organized into Modules by topic. The course is designed to expand and grow with each Module, and many sections will refer back to previous Modules. Complete the tasks in the order presented to get the most out of the course.

While some of the material can be done at a time of your choosing, there are specific due dates for activities, assessments, discussions, and exams. You must complete these components by the due date and time. Late work is not accepted. Additionally, there will be required class meetings every week; these may be held via Zoom or in-person. All meetings (Zoom and in-person) will be during our scheduled class time. Exact dates and modalities are provided in the Course Schedule. Class meetings will consist of a mix of instructor-led lectures, student-led seminars, discussions, and activities.

There will be one required field trip in the second half of the semester. The site will be near Santa Cruz or Monterey, and will include activities to reinforce course topics. After the field trip, there will be a project exploring personal connections to the ocean based in part on your field trip experience. Logistical details will be discussed during the first class meeting.

Student Responsibilities

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 three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

It is your responsibility to access the Canvas course, come prepared to lab meetings, engage thoroughly with each Module and associated components, carefully read directions, prepare thoughtful submissions for assignments, discussions, and activities, submit all assignments on-time, and make a commitment to quality work in this course. If you are in doubt about something in the course, ask! Utilize the Question Café Discussion board, send me a Canvas Message, or attend office hours.

Assignments

There will be varying types of assessments, activities, assignments, and presentations throughout the course. These assignments are designed to aid in your understanding of the course material, as well as develop skills in evaluating, analyzing, and communicating information about case studies and topics related to human relationships to the ocean.

Assignments may include discussions of weekly readings, low stakes short quizzes, written work, short video responses and discussions via Canvas, analysis of cases studies, real time activities via Zoom or in-person, and other activities to apply course concepts to real world examples. Additionally, each student will work with a small group to prepare and lead two seminar style discussions on course topics such as notable figures, historic periods, or exploits of marine systems.

Exam

One final exam will be given to test your understanding of the material presented, and may include material from lectures, seminar discussions, readings, films, activities, and student presentations. The exam will be cumulative, and may consist of multiple choice, true-false, matching, analysis, and short answer questions. Please do not miss the exam as you will not have the opportunity to make it up. Make-up exams may be considered for legitimate and documented circumstances (medical emergency, death in the family).

Participation

Students will be expected to actively participate in their learning. This means that you must actively engage with the material presented in the Canvas Modules and during class meetings. Do the reading. Watch the videos. Think about the questions presented to you. Prepare for class discussions and seminars. As much of this course is based on activities, presentations, and discussions, each student's participation is necessary for the class to function successfully. Just because the course is presented in a hybrid modality, does not mean collaboration with your peers is not essential. Discussions, video responses, in-person and Zoom meetings, and any other activities that come up during the semester may be used as participation points toward final course grade. **You must be present and prepared to receive participation points for activities; there are no makeup points for missed in-person or Zoom activities, discussions, or other assessments.**

Formatting for Written Work

Please note that all assignments need to be formatted as follows: 12 point font, Times New Roman, 1 inch margins, doubled spaced, include a header with name and date, and use Turabian/Chicago, MLA, or APA author-year citation style where applicable. There will be a points deduction for not following these guidelines.

Grading Policy

Your grade will be based on your assessments, exam, assignments, and class participation. All assignments are to be turned in through Canvas before the specified due date and time.

Grade Scale

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
A plus	97 to 100%
A	93 to 96%
A minus	90 to 92%
B plus	87 to 89 %
B	83 to 86%
B minus	80 to 82%
C plus	77 to 79%
C	73 to 76%
C minus	70 to 72%
D	60 to 69%
F	Less than 60%

Late Work

All graded work is **due BEFORE 11:59pm on the due date**, unless otherwise indicated in the assignment details or course schedule. Late work is **NOT** accepted. Plan accordingly, and do not wait until the last minute to submit an assignment. Exceptions may be considered for legitimate and documented circumstances (ie. medical emergency, death in the family).

Rubrics

Some assignments may be graded using a rubric. For assignments and discussions that utilize a rubric, you can review the rubric before submitting your work to ensure you have met all assignment guidelines and requirements.

- [How to view a rubric for an assignment?](#)
- [How to view a rubric for a discussion?](#)
- [How to view rubric results for my assignments?](#)

Extra Credit

Students are responsible for recording the details of any offered extra credit assignments.

Grading Overview

Please note that points possible may change based on class progression.

Assignment	Points	Learning Objectives
Notable People Seminar Presentation + Summary	50	CLO 1, 3; ILLO 1, 2, 3
Exploiting the Oceans Seminar Presentation + Summary	50	CLO 1, 2, 3; ILLO 1, 2, 3
How Do We Know: Historical Tools	20	CLO 2
Art and the Oceans	20	CLO 1, 3
Personal Connections Project	50	CLO 1
Reading/Discussion Responses	~100	CLO 1, 2, 3
Final Exam	100	CLO 1, 2, 3
Other Activities, Discussions, and Participation	~300	CLO 1, 2, 3
TOTAL	~700	

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](#).

Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility

In accordance with San José State University's Policies, the Student Code of Conduct, and applicable state and federal laws, discrimination based on gender, gender identity, gender expression, race, nationality, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or disability is prohibited in any form. The [SJSU Diversity website](#) has information on campus policies and programs, the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and how to report instances of bias.

Students are expected to participate fully in all class activities. It is expected that students will be open-minded, participate fully in discussions in-class and online, and debate in a mature and respectful manner. Use of derogatory, condescending, or offensive language including profanity is prohibited. Expressing disagreement should always include an explanation of your reasoning and whenever possible, evidence to support your position.

The CSU and SJSU both mandate that all students, staff, faculty, and visitors have equal and inclusive access to information and educational materials and programs. Therefore, all instructional documents and materials, electronic materials and programs, and web based materials and programs must be created to be accessible by all. The [Accessibility at SJSU website](#) has information on the specific laws and policies regarding accessibility, as well as information on SJSU's programs to ensure accessibility. In this course, my goal is to have all materials, readings, videos, etc. created in an accessible format. If you find a course component that is not accessible to you, please let me know, so that I can make corrections.

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 F15-7](#) 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](#) has more information. Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. **Cheating 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 already submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy F15-7 requires approval of both instructors.

COVID

All students are expected to comply with campus/CSU policies regarding COVID precautions. Review the resources below to ensure that you understand and follow current policies and guidelines.

- [SJSU Health Advisories](#) main page
- [SJSU Health Advisories: Vaccination](#) page has information regarding campus and CSU vaccination and/or testing policies
- [SJSU Health Center: Vaccine Requirements](#) page includes additional information about vaccine requirements, reporting, etc.
- [SJSU Health/Safety Protocols](#) page contains information regarding the university's steps, as well as your responsibilities as a SJSU community member, to prevent the spread of COVID among students, faculty, and staff
- [SJSU Symptom Check Tool](#) allows you to do a quick self-check for symptoms
- [SJSU Health Advisories: Resources](#) page contains links to COVID-related information from both the university and outside sources

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

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. See [University Policy S12-7](#), <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>

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.

Resources for Students

There are many resources on campus available to you. Some examples include: SJSU Peer Connections Center, the College of Social Science Access Center, SJSU Writing Center, SJSU Counseling and Psychological Service, SJSU Student Health Center, the Academic Success Center, and many places to use or get help with technology. See the [Syllabus Information web page](#) for more info. If you are not sure where to get assistance, please email me/come see me. I can help you find the right campus resources and get you connected with them.

SJSU Cares

Students experiencing challenges meeting their basic needs including, but not limited to, access to food, shelter, and a safe space are encouraged to contact SJSU Cares. The SJSU Cares program can help connect students to both on and off campus resources. Contact information:

- [SJSU Cares Information website](#)
- sjsucares@sjsu.edu
- 408-924-1234
- Direct link to the [Request Assistance Form](#)

Accessible Education Center (AEC)

The Accessible Education Center is committed to redefining ability for students with disabilities by providing comprehensive services in support of the educational development and success of students with disabilities in a student-centered and professional environment. To receive appropriate accommodations for temporary or permanent disabilities, you must register with the AEC. Additionally, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, so we can discuss the best ways to implement your accommodations to ensure your success in the course. AEC contact information:

- [AEC website](#)
- aec-info@sjsu.edu
- 408-924-6000

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

The SJSU Counseling and Psychological Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Carlos in the new Student Wellness Center, Room 300B. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide confidential consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate, or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. Numerous workshops for students are offered every semester. Hours are Monday through Friday 8:30am to 5:30pm and Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm. For 24/7 crisis intervention help, call the number below and select “option 4”. Contact information:

- [Counseling and Psychological Services website](#)
- counseling.services@sjsu.edu
- 408-924-5910