

San José State University
Environmental Studies
ENVS 1: Introduction to Environmental Issues, Spring 2016

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Office hours: Mon, Wed, 1:30-2:30 or by appt
Class days/time: Sec.1: MW10:30-11:45 Sec. 2: MW12-1:15
Classroom: Sec. 1 WSQ 207 Sec 2. Clark 226

Catalog Description

What effects are human activities having on the natural environment and our quality of life? Discover the technical and social causes of environmental degradation; learn how your personal and career choices can protect the environment for current and future generations. GE Area: D3

Succeeding in a Three-Unit Course

At SJSU, students are expected to spend two hours outside of class for every one hour of class time. In this four unit class, you can expect to spend on average **9 hours** per week during a regular semester in class and on scheduled tutorials or activities. Careful time management will help you keep up with readings and assignments and enable you to be successful in all of your courses.

Canvas Course Website

Copies of the course greensheet and major assignment sheets may be found on the class [Canvas website](https://sjsu.instructure.com/) [https://sjsu.instructure.com/]. Your grades will be posted on Canvas. Canvas will be used for important announcements about the class.

COURSE GOALS & LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Welcome to an ENVS 1, an introductory course about environmental issues. This course is designed to offer students the opportunity to gain an understanding of the causes and cures for many of our environmental problems.

Our world and its living populations are compromised by an expanding human population, poverty, increasing disparity between the well fed and the starving, between the rich and poor, conversion of non-renewable resources into municipal solid waste and pollution, political manipulation of public thought for corporate benefit, abuse and waste of public and natural resources, and imposing the dangers of toxic emissions onto the creatures in the environment and into ourselves. Dealing effectively with these issues requires identifying and understanding the basic causes that create environmental issues. We do this by studying human social and political mechanisms and the result of personal, interpersonal, local, regional, national and international actions on natural operating systems, ourselves, and on our future. This course applies critical thinking skills, interdisciplinary thought, and scientific analysis in consideration of sustainable solutions for the benefit of current and future generations.

Learning Objectives

The material in this course is designed to fulfill General Education (GE) learning objectives. It provides information to: 1) gain and improve knowledge of environmental issues; 2) learn the interrelationships of resource use, economics, politics and those impacts on the environment; 3) increase understanding of human behavior and social interaction in the context of value systems to; 3) identify social, political, technological and personal mechanisms which can influence technology and institutions and ultimately lead to more sustainable and peaceful world. Finally, the course will assist students to clarify the basic questions raised by technology and politics regarding environmental quality and their life. General Education learning objectives in the course include:

Identifying and analyzing the social dimensions of society as a context for human life, processes of social change and continuity, the role of human agency in those social processes, and the forces that engender social cohesion and fragmentation. (LO#1);

Placing contemporary developments in cultural, historical, environmental, and special contexts (LO#2);

Identifying and understanding the dynamics of different populations and sub-populations (e.g. according to ethnicities, cultures, gender, age, or economic class) (LO#3);

Evaluating social science information, drawing on multiple perspectives, and formulating applications appropriate to contemporary issues (LO#4);

Recognizing the interaction of social institutions, culture, and environment **with the behavior of individuals**; applying multi-disciplinary material to a topic relevant to social action at the local, national, or international level (LO#5).

In addition to the GE Learning Objectives, the Department of Environmental Studies also uses this course to promote and evaluate student achievement in these Department Learning Objectives (DLO's):

DL01: Achieve basic to good level of analysis and writing through a series of writing assignments. For this learning objective, students will be required to: 1) understand and summarize material on different environmental topics and 2) identify basic solutions from an interdisciplinary standpoint.

DL02: Students know key sustainability terminology and principles, and important environmental challenges facing the planet. For this learning objective, students will be required to: 1) know core sustainability issues, 2) know key environmental challenges, and 3) know basic science and social science information about those issues.

Required Text & Course Website

Living in the Environment, G. Tyler Miller Jr., Scott E. Spoolman, Brooks/Cole Publishing Company, Belmont, California, 18th Edition (On-line eBook recommended, hardback and loose-leaf versions available for those who prefer paper, rentals available). Earlier editions not recommended. E-book available on-line only via cengagebrain.com (for ordering use ISBN # 1133940137). See course website (on SJSU's Canvas Learning Management System) for details.

Other readings and videos will be assigned and available via the class [Canvas website](#) [<https://sjsu.instructure.com/>]. *It is your responsibility to complete these readings and viewings by the assigned date.*

Clickers

Personal response devices ('clickers') help make the course interactive, allowing the opportunity to better gauge student understanding during class, and thus enhance student learning. Clickers will be used throughout the course, both informally for opinion polling and for graded in-class activities. It is important to purchase your clicker as soon as possible; clicker points will begin accumulating in the 2nd week of class. You need to **bring your clicker to every class** in order to be eligible for these points.

The clickers we are using are Turning Point ResponseCard NXT Keypad; Product ID: NXT-BX, and are available either at the campus bookstore, or directly through the distributor at a special SJSU price. To purchase directly from [the distributor](#), visit: <https://store.turningtechnologies.com/> and enter SJSU for the school code. For a \$15 rebate, go to rebates.turningtechnologies.com; Code: RSJSU. You have to register your clicker at <http://webreg.turningtechnologies.com>. You'll find detailed directions on our canvas website.

University Policies

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop and grade forgiveness. Refer to the current semester's [Catalog Policies](#) 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](#) 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/>

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](#), 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 Americans with 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 [Disability Resource Center](http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/) (DRC) at <http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/> to establish a record of their disability.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the new Academic Success Center located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. In addition, computers are 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.

Academic Counseling Center for Excellence in the Social Sciences (ACCESS)

Clark Hall Room 240, 924-5363, socsci-access@sjsu.edu

Dr. Hien Do, Faculty Director, Hien.Do@sjsu.edu, 924-5461; Valerie Chapman, Academic Advisor, Valerie.Chapman@sjsu.edu, 924-5364

All COSS students and interested students are invited to stop by the Center for general education advising, help with changing majors, academic policy related questions, meeting with peer advisors, and/or attending various regularly scheduled presentations and workshops. Call or email for an appointment, or just stop by.

Learning Assistance Resource Center

The Learning Assistance Resource Center is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to motivate them to become self-directed learners. The center provides support services, such as skills assessment, individual or group tutorials, subject advising, learning assistance, summer academic preparation and basic skills development. The Learning Assistance Resource Center is located in Room 600 in the Student Services Center.

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center in Clark Hall 126 is staffed by professional [instructors](#) and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the [seven SJSU colleges](#). The writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. More information available at sjsu.edu/writingcenter.

Classroom Protocol

- Our class meetings will take place face-to-face, but course activities also take place online. Both our online and in-person spaces contribute to a respectful classroom.

- You are expected to participate in all class activities and discussion in a meaningful way. Our discussion of the issues will thrive on respectful discussion of a wide range of issues, some of which may be contentious. Your in-class and online discussion should always be professional; personal attacks are not acceptable.
- You may use a computer in class **only** for class-related activities: taking notes and finding websites to which the instructor directs you during class. If you use a computer for ANY other activities (email, social media, etc.) you will lose participation points and/or computer privileges. Computer use unrelated to class is unprofessional and disruptive.
- **CELL PHONES ARE PROHIBITED.** Turn off or silence your cell phones and music/media players while this class is in session. Do not answer your phone during class. **DO NOT TEXT DURING CLASS.** Repeated violation of these policies will result in the loss of participation points and may be referred to SJSU's Judicial Affairs Officer.
- Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain instructor permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material permission, they are to be used for your private study purposes only. Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without approval. You may not publicly share or upload such material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.

Course Communication

- **Consistent Communication:** Do not hesitate to email me with questions. I check the course website regularly throughout the week and will do my best to respond to any messages in a timely fashion (typically within 24 hours). Please take a moment to see if your question is answered in this greensheet or in our classroom. *Note: I typically do not respond to emails after 6pm or on weekends.*
- **Respectful communication:** Be polite to your classmates and instructor. Be courteous in discussion and peer critiques. Respect your classmates' various backgrounds and opinions and acknowledge the time that we all put into making this a successful class. Remember that electronic communication does not convey tone very well, so think before you write something sarcastic, because it may not be perceived the way you intended. Writing in all caps tends to look like you are shouting.
- **Academic communication:** You are expected to use appropriate writing style for a university course. Please use full sentences, academic language, and appropriate writing styles in your written work, as well as communication with your peers or instructors.

Assignments and Grading Policy

- 1) All assignments are turned in via the course website. All assignments will ask you paste text into the website. Do not upload attachments for discussion posts. Uploads in PDF, Word or other formats will NOT be graded. I encourage you to complete assignments in a word processing program and save your work to guard against potential loss of work due to internet connection. To submit your work, copy and paste text into appropriate assignment.
- 2) In case of emergency, please do everything in your power to contact me prior to missing class or work. I **ONLY** accept late work in cases of extreme medical or family emergency; *such work may be subject to a 50% grade penalty and requires some level of documentation.*

Your grade will be assigned according to the following point scale:

A 925-1000 pts	A- 895-924 pts	B+ 865-894 pts	B 825-864 pts
B- 795-824 pts	C+ 765-794 pts	C 725-764 pts	C- 695-724 pts
D+ 665-694 pts	D 625-664 pts	D- 595-624 pts	F 0-594 pts

In-class participation: 150 points / 15%

This is a participation-based course that relies on your consistent and active engagement in discussion, activities and peer feedback. In this class, your participation grade will be largely based on your engagement in the class discussion, your clicker engagement, and your discussions on-line. You are expected to complete required readings and activities and be prepared to discuss and elaborate on them in class.

Weekly assignments: 300 points / 30%

Over the course of the semester, weekly writing assignments (~100 words each) will be submitted via Canvas and focus on topics for the week. Your responses should demonstrate that you have done the readings, paid attention in lecture, and understand the material.

Midterm Exams: 150 points each / 15% each

There will be two midterm exams, all exams will be multiple choice and you will use clickers to complete the exam. Ensure that you bring the clicker to each exam

Final Exam: 250 points / 25%

Final exam will follow the same format as the midterm exams, and will be comprehensive.

ENVS 1 Schedule (Subject to change)

Date	Topics	Miller Readings/Study/Assignments
Thurs 2/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome to EnvS001, Course Description, What is Env. Studies? How to do well in the course 	
2/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of Environmental Issues 	Preface, Ch.1,
2/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental History Environmental Worldviews LAST DAY TO DROP THE CLASS 	Ch. 25
2/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scientific Principles: Scientific method, Matter, Energy, and Ecosystems 	Ch.2
2/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecosystems, Biodiversity, Evolution 	Ch.3,4
2/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population dynamics 	Ch. 5,6
2/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate, Biodiversity crisis 	Ch. 7,9
2/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managing biodiversity 	Ch. 10,11
2/29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food and Agriculture 	CH 12
3/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Future of Food</i> 	
3/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Midterm Review 	
3/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MIDTERM 1 	
3/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water resources 	Ch. 13
3/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy: Fossil Fuels 	Ch. 15
3/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy: Future of energy 	Ch. 16
3/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air Pollution, Human health 	Ch. 18,19
3/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spring break 	
3/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spring break 	
4/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Justice 	TBD
4/6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Midterm review 	

4/11	• MIDTERM 2	
4/13	• Climate Change	Ch. 19
4/18	• Waste	Ch. 21
4/20	• Consumerism	TBD
4/25	• Urban environments and Sustainability	Ch. 22
4/27	• Solutions: Economic	Ch.23
5/2	• Solutions: Policy	Ch. 24
5/4	• Solutions: Human Factor	Ch. 25
5/9	• Solutions: Corporations	TBD
5/11	• Wrap up, final lecture	TBD
5/16	• REVIEW	
FINAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Section 1: Tuesday, May 24 9:45-12:00</i> • <i>Section 2: Thursday May 19 9:45-12:00</i> 	