

**San José State University**  
**Environmental Studies**  
**ENVS 1 Introduction to Environmental Issues, 02, Spring, 2017**

**Course and Contact Information**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. Kathryn Davis
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<b>Office Hours:</b>	Tuesday 3-5 PM, Thursday 10:45-11:45 AM, and by other arrangement. You must put your name on my office hours list by visiting this site: <a href="http://profdavis.youcanbook.me">profdavis.youcanbook.me</a>
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	T/TH 9:00 – 10:15 AM
<b>Classroom:</b>	WSQ 207
<b>GE Category:</b>	Area D3: Social Issues

**Course Format**

**Contacting Professor Davis**

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the Canvas website for this course. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU and Canvas to learn about any updates. I **strongly recommend** that you contact me through Canvas. You will receive a quicker response and it is easier for me to keep track of our communication. When contacting me through Canvas the system will tell me who you are. If you need to contact me via email put GLST 167 and your full name in the subject line (too often an email address does not include a name). Email without this information may not receive a prompt response.

**Course Description**

All of humanity relies on the natural environment for its welfare, yet problems often arise from interactions between humans and the environment. The field of environmental studies strives to understand existing environmental problems, find solutions, and avoid future problems. A crucial part of this is to recognize that humanity does not exist as a separate entity from the natural environment. This course will provide an opportunity to explore several environmental issues so you develop an appreciation for the complexity of environmental problems. This course will broaden students' ability to analyze in a systematic fashion important environmental challenges that operate at a variety of temporal and spatial scales. The course applies critical thinking skills, interdisciplinary thought, and scientific analysis in consideration of sustainable solutions for the benefit of current and future generations.

**GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)**

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

1. Place contemporary developments in cultural, historical, environmental, and spatial contexts.

2. Identify the dynamics of ethnic, cultural, gender/sexual, age-based, class, regional, national, transnational, and global identities and the similarities, differences, linkages, and interactions between them.
3. Evaluate social science information, draw on different points of view, and formulate applications appropriate to contemporary social issues.
4. Apply multidisciplinary material to a topic relevant to policy and social action at the local, national, and/or international levels.

### Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

1. Gain and improve knowledge of key environmental issues
2. Learn about the interrelationships between resource use, economics, politics, social justice, and environmental degradation
3. Identify social, political, and technical solutions that will guide change towards more sustainable communities today, and in the years to come

### Required Texts/Readings

#### Textbook

Miller, G. *Living in the Environment: Principles, Connections, and Solutions*. 18<sup>th</sup> edition.

- This book is **not** available at the Spartan Bookstore. Two copies are on reserve at the MLK Library but they are being shared between 2 sections of this class so don't count on it being available when you need it.
- The book is available for rent at [Amazon](#) for about \$34.00. You can also acquire a hardcover or loose leaf text on Amazon.

#### Other Readings

Additional readings, if assigned, will be available on Canvas.

### Course Requirements and Assignments

#### Quizzes

Starting with week 3 there will be a multiple choice quiz each week except the weeks we have midterms. Quizzes are on Canvas and will be open for a week, from Monday 9:00 AM to Sunday 11:59 PM. You can take the quiz twice and only the highest score will count. You may use class notes, textbook, and reading notes. The quizzes are to encourage you to do the reading as well as to check your comprehension of key terms and concepts. Quizzes will be generated randomly from a pool of questions so each student may or may not have a completely different quiz. There will be 11 quizzes worth 10 points each and I will drop the lowest quiz grade so only 10 will count. *Quizzes cannot be made up for any reason.* (100 points total)

#### Exams

There will be 2 midterms and a final exam. Each will cover the material since the previous exam and the final is NOT comprehensive. Exams may include multiple choice, fill in the blank, and short answer questions. (50 points each = 150)

#### Position Papers

Position papers based on insights gained from readings, videos, lecture, and discussions. The objective of the position paper is to provide an opportunity for students to discuss different "perspectives" on a given

environmental issue. Students will be required to write short papers (2-3 pages double-spaced) based on questions associated with different topics. There are 10 possible topics, but you choose to write **only on 5** topics you choose from the list you'll find on Canvas in Modules. A grading rubric will also be posted on Canvas. (30 points each = 150)

**Format:** Papers must be 500 – 750 words, Times or Times New Roman 12-pt font, double-spaced, NO running header, pages numbered in bottom right corner, pages stapled at top left, 1” margins all around. No title page necessary – put your name, ENVS 1, and the date on page one only.

**Submission:** Submit to Canvas by 9:00 AM on the due date AND bring a hard copy to me in class. Papers submitted on Canvas will be evaluated for originality by Turnitin.com.

### University’s Credit Hour Requirement

“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.”

### Final Examination or Evaluation

The final exam for this class will not be comprehensive. It will be administered on the day the final exam is scheduled: May 23, 7:15 AM – 9:30 AM in WSQ 207.

### Grading Information

#### Determination of Grades

Assessment will always be part of our academic and professional lives. Grades earned in this class reflect the instructor’s assessment of the student’s effort and quality of work. A grade of A+ is typically reserved for exceptional or distinguished work that exceeds the instructor’s expectations.

#### Grade Scale:

A+ = 100%	A = 99-95%	A- = 94-90%
B+ = 89-87%	B = 86-83%	B- = 82-80%
C+ = 79-77%	C = 76-73%	C- = 72-70%
D+ = 69-67%	D = 66-63%	D- = 62-60%
F = 59-0% Unsatisfactory		

### Grades will be based on the following:

Quizzes	100
Position Papers	150
Exams	150
<b>Total</b>	<b>400</b>

**Late Policy:** I expect all work to be submitted on time and in the required format. However, for the position papers I will accept them up to 24 hours late, but there will be a full grade deduction. I will not accept assignments more than 24 hours late. Do not leave assignments to the last minute, which usually results in poor

work and possibly not getting finished on time. If you have a verifiable emergency that precludes your taking an exam when it is scheduled, you must contact me in advance and be prepared to show documentation. This documentation must be from a doctor, campus official, court, law enforcement, or other official verification of your situation. It cannot be a parent or person otherwise related to you. It must specifically state that you were unable to attend class on the date of an exam or assignment due date, and why.

### **Extra Credit**

You can earn up to 10 points extra credit by attending a talk on an environmental issue and writing a 1-page analysis of the talk. Clear the topic with me first. Extra credit is not meant to replace assignments so in order to get extra credit you must complete all assignments.

### **Classroom Protocol**

*Please note the following:*

1. The classroom is a place of mutual respect. Everyone is expected to treat each other and his/her questions and comments with civility.
2. Cell phones, and all other electronics, must be turned off and placed where they cannot be seen. Please, no text messaging, surfing websites, reading outside material, and the like during class. Computers are not allowed except when everyone is using them for a specific purpose as defined by the instructor.
3. I understand that you may have the required reading on an e-reader, phone, or laptop. Take notes by hand, when reading, and bring them to class with you. Writing rather than typing notes better helps you retain what you read. I suggest you keep a reading notebook specifically for this class so your notes are in one place and less likely to be misplaced or lost.
4. Announcements and instructions throughout the course (in class and on Canvas) will amplify, supplement, and possibly change the syllabus. Students are responsible for keeping up to date on these announcements and for understanding any changes.

Email is a medium that should be used carefully. I do not answer emails immediately on nights and weekends, although during the week between 7 am and 7 pm I try to answer that day or within 24 hours. Be aware that emailing me the night before your assignment is due is not acceptable. Please plan and try to make use of my office hours, not email, for more complicated or in-depth discussions. I will not read drafts sent to me via email – bring it to my office and we can talk about it there.

### **Tips for Success**

- ✓ Read the syllabus carefully, and write down the exam dates and the due dates for assignments in your calendar.
- ✓ Take good notes in lecture and discussion.
- ✓ Keep up with the readings. Lecture and discussion will not make sense unless you have done the readings. You should expect to spend about 3-4 hours outside of class each week on required reading, ideally in a couple of uninterrupted sessions.
- ✓ Use a dictionary and an encyclopedia when you need them. You can find free dictionaries and encyclopedias online.
- ✓ Consider forming a study group. Students who study together do better and have more fun.
- ✓ Take advantage of my office hours. I am there to help and love talking to students!

## 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/>"

## ENVS 1 / Intro. to Environmental Studies, Spring 2017, Course Schedule

*A syllabus is a working document, designed to be flexible to adapt to changing needs of the class. I reserve the right to make changes to assignments, due dates, schedule, readings, etc. and will give fair notice on Canvas in advance of changes taking effect.*

### Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	1/26	Introduction, expectations, syllabus
2	1/31 – 2/2	Environmental Problems, Their Causes, Sustainability What do scientists do? <b>Read</b> (by 1/31): <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chapter 1</li><li>• Chapter 2 section 2.1 only</li></ul>
3	2/7 – 2/9	Ecosystems: What are they and how do they work? <b>Read</b> (by 2/7): <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chapter 3</li></ul> <b>Due:</b> Quiz 1
4	2/14 – 2/16	Biodiversity and Evolution How do species interact? <b>Read</b> (by 2/14): <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chapter 4</li><li>• Chapter 5, section 5.1 only</li></ul> <b>Due:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Quiz 2</li><li>• Position Paper #1</li></ul>
5	2/21 – 2/23	Human population and its impact <b>Read</b> (by 2/21): <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chapter 6</li></ul> <b>Due:</b> Quiz 3
6	2/28 – 3/2	2/28: <b>Midterm #1</b> 3/2: Video No reading assigned this week
7	3/7 – 3/9	Aquatic biodiversity <b>Read</b> (by 3/7): <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chapter 8</li></ul> <b>Due:</b> Quiz 4

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</b>
8	3/14 – 3/16	Sustaining biodiversity: Saving species and ecosystem services <b>Read</b> (by 3/14): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 9</li> <li>• Chapter 10, section 10.5 only</li> </ul> <b>Due:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quiz 5</li> <li>• Position Paper #2</li> </ul>
9	3/21 – 3/23	Sustaining aquatic biodiversity and ecosystem services <b>Read</b> (by 3/21): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 11</li> </ul> <b>Due:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quiz 6</li> </ul>
<b>Spring Break 3/27 – 3/31</b>		
10	4/4 – 4/6	Food Production and the Environment <b>Read</b> (by 4/4): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 12</li> </ul> <b>Due:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quiz 7</li> <li>• Position Paper #3</li> </ul>
11	4/11 – 4/13	4/11: <b>Midterm #2</b> 4/13: Video No reading assigned this week
12	4/18 – 4/20	Water Resources <b>Read</b> (by 4/18): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 13</li> </ul> <b>Due:</b> Quiz 8
13	4/25 – 4/27	Energy efficiency and renewable energy <b>Read</b> (by 4/25): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 16</li> <li>• Chapter 14, section 14.3 only</li> <li>• Chapter 15, sections 15.2, 15.4, 15.5 only</li> </ul> <b>Due:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quiz 9</li> <li>• Position Paper #4</li> </ul>
14	5/2 – 5/4	Environmental human hazards and human health <b>Read</b> (by 5/2): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 17</li> <li>• Chapter 18, sections 18.5 and 18.6 only</li> <li>• Chapter 19, sections 19.1-19.3 only</li> </ul> <b>Due:</b> Quiz 10

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
15	5/9 – 5/11	Environmental worldviews, ethics, and sustainability <b>Read</b> (by 5/9): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 25</li> <li>• Chapter 22, sections 22.2, 22.5 only</li> <li>• Chapter 23, section 23.4 only</li> </ul> <b>Due:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quiz 11</li> <li>• Position Paper #5</li> </ul>
16	5/16	Last class – course wrap up and final discussion of environmental issues
Final Exam		<b>5/23, 7:15 AM – 9:30 AM</b>