

INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is about understanding and solving today's most pressing environmental and natural resource problems. These issues range from global warming to water pollution to endangered species. Dealing effectively with these challenges requires an understanding of how the human and natural worlds interact, using critical thinking skills, and applying a long-term interdisciplinary problem-solving approach. Using key ideas from both the natural and social sciences, you will develop your own set of analytical and decision making tools and apply them to a wide variety of environmental scenarios.

More specifically, the aims of this course are to provide students with the information to: 1) gain and improve knowledge of key environmental issues; 2) learn about the interrelationships between resource use, economics, politics, and environmental degradation; and 3) identify social, political, and technical actions that will guide societal and individual behavior toward more sustainable endeavors. **This course also fulfills General Education D3 learning objectives.**

In class we will cover many topics in brief to provide an overview of the field. Individual writing assignments will allow you to develop expertise on a topic that is of particular interest to you.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIAL

Living in the Environment, 17th Edition

Author(s): G. Tyler Miller and Scott E. Spoolman

Publisher: Brooks/Cole-Cengage Learning ISBN: 0-538-49414-X

VERY IMPORTANT—PLEASE READ THIS IMMEDIATELY!

<http://www.nelsonbrain.com/shop/isbn/9780538735346>

The above web address will take you to the Publisher's web site where you can rent the e-textbook for much less than the regular, printed book. If you want a hardcopy of the text—look into the cheaper Loose Leaf version. I would try to find a used copy of the textbook—Please do not buy the regular textbook, it is too expensive and they have a new edition out which I will use next time I teach the class.

The Research PAPER and Both Exams, as well as the daily discussions, ARE MANDATORY—YOU CANNOT PASS THIS COURSE WITHOUT TAKING BOTH EXAMS, HANDING IN THE RESEARCH PAPER, AND PARTICIPATING IN ALL THE DISCUSSIONS---You must participate in

each and every discussion topic. —REGARDLESS OF YOUR OTHER POINTS ACCUMULATED IN THE COURSE! *Missing more than ONE discussion topic during the semester is unacceptable. You must participate in every discussion—if you miss one (and you can only miss and make up one), contact me right away to see how you can make it up.*

CLASS FORMAT

This is an on-line class. Students are REQUIRED to participate in all the discussions so that we may all benefit from group interaction. Being involved in class discussions makes for a good learning atmosphere and is the most important part of any Internet course.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

The best way to learn is to be an active participant. Be sure to participate in the discussions and read the greensheet/syllabus so you know of the due dates for all class assignments. Be sure to complete the assigned readings and submit all assignments on time. Disrespectful or rude behavior toward others will not be tolerated and is grounds for dismissal.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments, unless announced otherwise, are due by 11:59 pm on the due date specified in the Syllabus. **Late assignments will be assessed a severe penalty per each late day and will not be accepted if more than 2 days late.** Illness and extenuating family or personal circumstances are the only allowable excuses for late work, and must be documented. **Assignments and exams cannot be made up if they are more than one week late. When in doubt—go by the dates in this Greensheet/Syllabus and not in the on-line class.**

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Every student who takes a class at SJSU, including this one, agrees to abide by the University's policies on plagiarism and academic dishonesty. (See the SJSU Course Catalog for details.) Any student found to be in violation of these policies will receive zero credit for the exam or assignment in question. Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at SJSU, and the University's Academic Integrity Policy 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 policy on academic integrity can be found at http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/facultyandstaff/Academic_Integrity/

ACCOMMODATION FOR DISABILITIES

SJSU expects that faculty will put forth their best effort to make all students feel comfortable in their classes, and will work with the [Accessible Education Center](#) in accommodating the special needs of students with disabilities. If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you have emergency medical information to share with me, please contact me as soon as possible. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities register with the Accessible Education Center to establish a record of their disability (924-6000).

COURSE GRADING

Over the semester, you will have a variety of quizzes, exams and written assignments. They are designed to help you learn the course material and to acquire the requisite skills for issue analysis. The written assignments

help you improve your communication skills by making you demonstrating your ability to comprehend, analyze, and take a position on an environmental issue. Information about each assignment and exam is below. Look in the Assignment section of the course for information on the homework assignments. You can access the Assignment section from the course Homepage.

Research Paper (100 points)

In this 5 page (approx. 1,200—1,300 words—**but 5 full pages of text required**) paper, you will conduct independent research on an environmental topic of your choice. You will conduct a short literature review, analyze information from various sources, and write in some detail about an environmental topic of personal interest. You must have at least 6 references (web sites, book, articles, interviews, etc.) for this paper. The body of the paper must be 5 FULL pages long—this DOES NOT include a title page, pictures, tables, figures, or the reference page. *You must get your topic approved by the instructor before you start on the paper. The paper and references must be done according to an established style guide, such as APA or MLA. Please consult library and/or Writing Center staff (Clark Hall) for assistance with this assignment.*

Style, Construction, and Organization. This paper must exhibit good sentence construction, syntax, and punctuation. If you are unclear on what constitutes correct writing style, please consult a style manual, such as *A Manual for Writers* by Kate Turabian (1987). The full citation for this book is: Turabian, Kate L. 1987. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. This book is available in the Spartan Bookstore and in the writing section of most bookstores.

This paper must be typed, using 12-point font. Allowable font styles include Courier, Palatino, or Times New Roman. Use space and a half or double spacing. Type the paper Left justified.

Maintain one-inch margins on the top, bottom and both sides. Paragraphs will be indented five spaces. Give your paper an appropriate title and provide an extra space between the title and the body of your text. Number the pages. Include your name, the course name, and the date. Spell-check your work and proof-read your paper after you spell-check to catch any style, syntax, or spelling errors. *I will be grading you on the writing quality of this paper, I STRONGLY suggest you have someone else proof-read your paper for you as an extra check, and please take advantage of the writing assistance resources on campus to help you produce a well written paper. Please contact the SJSU Writing Center for assistance: Academic Success Center, Clark Hall, Suite 126, (408) 924-2308, www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter*

Summarizing, Paraphrasing, Quoting, and Plagiarism. In this paper, you will be taking information written by other authors and you will communicate that information in your paper. The goal of the paper is to summarize the material, distilling the most important information in order to make your points. After you locate the most important information, you must then convey the material *totally in your own words*. This is paraphrasing. Paraphrasing is what you are doing if you were to describe to a friend the information you read in your textbook.

If your paraphrase is close to the exact words used by another author or if, in fact, you use the exact words of an author without citing that author, then you are plagiarizing. Plagiarizing is a form of stealing and is a punishable offense at SJSU. You MUST avoid plagiarizing. Changing one or a few words in another author's sentence is not paraphrasing; it is plagiarizing. If you must use language close to another author's words, cite that author in

the text of your paper. If you use an author's exact words you must **quote** them and then cite the author. To cite the author, give the author's name and the publication date in the text and then provide a full reference at the end of the paper on the reference page. If you take facts from your sources and use them in your paper (which you certainly will), you also need to cite a reference after these facts in the text of your paper. Simple example--- Ozone air pollution has increased by 10% in the last 4 years (EPA, 2007), then list full EPA reference on the reference page-----Be sure to contact me if you are not sure you are plagiarizing.

Plagiarism in the paper will result in NO CREDIT. (If you are not sure what plagiarism is, copy the definition of it from someone else without giving them credit...just kidding!). This Research paper will help evaluate General Education D3 Learning Objectives 1, 2, 4, and 5.

Discussions (390 points)

These daily discussions are the main component of this Internet course. There are 13 discussion topics spread over the VERY SHORT WINTER semester and you will need to leave three significant posts/messages for each topic, as well as two outside references for each topic. You will receive additional information on what is expected in your discussion posts in the "How to take a web class..." document that was sent to you and is also posted in the On-line Class. These discussions will evaluate all 5 of this course's General Education D3 Learning Objectives. See the schedule in this syllabus to see when each topic will be discussed.

Discussion Topics:

	<i>Topic (13 Discussions)</i>
1	ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES
2	LAW OF CONSERVATION OF MATTER & ENERGY
3	ECOSYSTEMS
4	HUNTING & BIODIVERSITY
5	POPULATION ISSUES- USA
6	AGRICULTURE: Fertilizers, Pesticides, and Organic Farming
7	WATER RESOURCES
8	WATER POLLUTION
9	AIR POLLUTION
10	CLIMATE CHANGE & OZONE DEPLETION
11	ENERGY: Non-renewable Sources
12	ENERGY: Renewable Sources
13	SOLID & HAZARDOUS WASTE

Homework (60 points)

There are two homework assignments which include taking an online ecological footprint quiz and reporting on local environmental issue coverage in your local newspaper. **See the Assignment section in the on-line course for documents describing these assignments in more detail.** These assignments help evaluate General Education D3 learning Objectives 3, 4, and 5.

Quizzes (70 points)

Quizzes on seven textbook chapters **will count towards your Quiz grade, they are quizzes for**

Chapters: 03, 09, 12, 16, 18, 20, and 21. I would like you to take these quizzes on the same day that we cover that number chapter in the textbook, but due to the VERY short Winter session, I will have the quizzes open from Day 1 to the end of the class. Be sure to take all the quizzes before the Final Exam.

Two Exams: Mid-term and Final (200 points each for a total of 400 points)

Please see the schedule below to see which textbook chapters will be covered by the mid-term and final exams. The final exam is not cumulative.

The Quizzes and Exams in this course help evaluate General Education D3 Learning Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4.

<i>Assignment/Exam</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>% of Total Points (1020)</i>
Quizzes	70	As assigned—but anytime is fine	6.8%
Homework	60	Ecological Footprint- January 7 Newspaper Assignment- January 15	5.9%
Discussions (13 @ 30 pts. each)	390	Daily	38.2%
Mid-term Exam	200	January 13	19.6%
Research Paper	100	January 18	9.8%
Final Exam	200	January 22-23	19.6%

Accumulated points determine your semester grade as follows:

97-100 = A+	82-86 = B	70-71 = C-
92-96 = A	80-81 = B-	67-69 = D+
90-91 = A-	77-79 = C+	66-63 = D
87-89 = B+	72-76 = C	62-58 = D-

GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OBJECTIVES FOR THIS COURSE

To assist students in . . .

- ◆ Identifying and analyzing the social dimensions of society as a context for human life, the processes of social change and continuity, the role of human agency in those social processes, and the forces that engender social cohesion and fragmentation;
- ◆ Placing contemporary developments in cultural, historical, environmental, and spatial contexts;
- ◆ Identifying and understanding the dynamics of different populations and sub-populations (e.g., according to ethnicities, cultures, gender, age, or economic class);
- ◆ Evaluating social science information, drawing on multiple perspectives, and formulating applications appropriate to contemporary social issues'
- ◆ Recognizing the interaction of social institutions, culture, and environment with the behavior of individuals; and
- ◆ Applying multi-disciplinary material to a topic relevant to social action at the local, national, or international level.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Date	Topic	Readings, Assignments, and Activities
Day 1 Jan. 4	Welcome to ENV5 1	Course overview; student introductions in Discussion Area Reading: Miller, preface, Chapter 1 Reading: Miller, Supplement 3—Environmental History
Day 2 Jan. 5	What is environmental science and sustainability?	Discussion: ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES
Day 3 Jan. 6	Science, Matter, Energy and Systems Ecosystems: What Are They and How Do They Work?	Reading: Miller, Chapter 2 Discussion: LAW OF CONSERVATION OF MATTER & ENERGY Reading: Miller, Chapter 3 — Take Quiz # 3
Day 4 Jan. 7	Biodiversity and Evolution Biodiversity, Species Interactions, and Population Control	Reading: Miller, Chapter 4 Discussion: ECOSYSTEMS Reading: Miller, Chapter 5 Ecological Footprint Home work Assignment Due by Jan. 7th
Day 5 Jan. 8	Sustaining Biodiversity: The Species Approach	Reading: Miller, Chapter 9— Take Quiz # 9 Discussion: HUNTING & BIODIVERSITY
Day 6 Jan. 9	The Human Population and Its Impact	Reading: Miller, Chapter 6 Discussion: POPULATION ISSUES
Day 7 Jan. 10	Food, Soil, and Pest Management	Reading: Miller, Chapter 12— Take Quiz # 12 Discussion: AGRICULTURE: Fertilizers, Pesticides, and Organic Farming
Day 8 Jan. 11	Water Resources	Reading: Miller, Chapter 13 Discussion: WATER RESOURCES
Day 9 Jan. 12	Water Pollution	Reading: Miller, Chapter 20 — Take Quiz 20 Discussion: Water Pollution
Day 10 Jan. 13	Take MID-TERM EXAM Jan. 13	MID-TERM EXAM (Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 12, and 13) Take On-line (Open Book)— Due by January 13th at 11:59 pm

Day 11 Jan. 14	Air Pollution	Reading: Miller, Chapter 18— Take Quiz 18 Discussion: Air Pollution
Day 12 Jan. 15	Climate Disruption and Ozone Depletion	Reading Miller, Chapters 19 Discussion: Climate Change & Ozone Depletion Newspaper Homework Assignment Due January 15th
Day 13 Jan. 16	Nonrenewable Energy	Reading: Miller, Chapter 15 Discussion: ENERGY: Nonrenewable Sources
Day 14 Jan. 17	Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy	Reading: Miller, Chapter 16— Take Quiz 16 Discussion: ENERGY: Efficiency & Renewable Sources
Day 15 Jan. 18		<i>RESEARCH PAPER DUE January 18th</i>
Day 16 Jan. 19	Sustainable Cities	Reading: Miller, Chapter 22
Day 17 Jan. 20	Solid/Hazardous Waste	Reading: Miller, Chapter 21— Take Quiz 21 Discussion: Solid & Hazardous Waste
Day 18 Jan. 21	Politics, Environment, and Sustainability	Reading: Miller, Chapter 24
Day 19 Jan. 22	Take Final Exam Jan. 22 & 23	Final Exam Chapters 15,16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, & 24)—Due by January 23rd at 11:59 pm (Take On-line, Open Book)