

SYLLABUS

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

Impact of agriculture, urbanization and other human land uses upon California coastal wetlands with emphasis on current environmental problems and controversies. State public agencies concerned with vital environmental problems and analysis of current environmental legislation. Prerequisite: ENVS 1 or consent of instructor. Ideally however, it would be best if you first had ENVS 10, 100W, and 117. **May be repeated for a maximum of 8 units.**

COURSE OBJECTIVES & HOW THE COURSE WILL OPERATE:

I am currently writing a book about *California Coastal Wetlands*. The book is designed for the general public, especially conservationists, birders, hikers, kayakers, photographers, and open-space enthusiasts. The goal of the book is to help conserve wetlands through environmental education (i.e., public awareness). Students that enroll must be interested in serving as *research assistants*—investigating, exploring, photographing, and providing feedback in seminar style to the rest of the research team. This is not your typical sit back, listen to a lecture, take an occasional note, prep for some exams, and write a simple ‘Internet-Cut-and-Paste’ term paper. Those that have tried that have failed.

QUESTIONS YOU NEED TO ASK YOURSELF BEFORE ENROLLING:

(1) Are you an *academically mature student* (undergrad or grad) that likes direction, but doesn’t need your hand held through every step of the process? (2) Are you willing to get into your car and *travel at your own expense*, with a friend or family member to a designated coastal wetland, then explore it, photograph it, interview some officials about it, and report your findings (orally and in writing) back in seminar to the project team? (3) Since some of these sites will mean an overnight stay for 1-2 nights, are you willing to *camp or “motel-it” (at your own expense)* at a nearby accommodation so that you can at least be at the site for two-three days? The best days to be on site are mid week because you won’t find any agency people working on weekends. (4) Are you interested in coastal issues, particularly wetlands, and *enjoy getting outdoors*, away from the computer screen? (5) Do you like to walk and photograph a piece of land? (6) Do you like to do the *detective investigative work* (kind of like being a CSI Investigator) of finding out what you can learn from related topographic maps, historical photographs, and current aerial photographs? (7) Do you like the idea of being *part of a research team* working on an important conservation book project? If you answer “Yes” to most of these questions, then ENVS 144 is for you! If the answer is “No,” then I suggest you talk to your advisor about getting another class.

STATEMENT REGARDING REQUIRED HOURS FOR A 4-UNIT, IN PERSON

COURSE. At SJSU, students are expected to spend at least two hours outside of class for every one hour of in-person class time. Because this is a 4 unit course, you can expect to spend a minimum of **8 hours per week** completing class-related assignments in addition to the in-person class meeting. For additional details, see file “*University Guidelines for Units/Workload*” on my *faculty web page*. Fortunately for students, the where, when, and how you put in those hours is based on your own personal family, work, and job schedule. In other words, the geographic location you choose to travel to (e.g., San Diego County), the day and number of times you must visit to accomplish your research (generally 2-3 times) is based on your success rate at accomplishing your chosen goal.

STATEMENT REGARDING DISABILITY: 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 the Accessible Education Center (AEC). Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations

must register with AEC to establish a record of their disability. *[If you are aware of a disability now, register within the first three weeks of class. Do not wait until an assignment is due].*

RECOMMENDED COURSE:

ENVS 144 is an excellent course for undergraduate and graduate students pursuing an ***environmental restoration, wildlife resource management, water quality, open space & recreation, environmental education, or coastal resource management*** focus in the ENVS Department. The course is also strongly recommended for any student or general citizen that lives in California and has an interest in learning about [and hopefully working towards conserving/preserving] California's coastal environmental wetland heritage. It is also recommended for anyone interested in ***nature and conservation photography***, because it provides you an opportunity to get out and further refine your photographic skills. I'll also be sharing with you my portfolio of wetland photographs that I have been working on for this book.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- (1) California Coastal Commission. 2003 (6th edition). *California Coastal Access Guide*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- (2) Turabian, Kate. 2008 (8th edition). *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*.
- (3) Files on my web page: <http://www.sjsu.edu/people/gary.klee/courses/>

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES:

- (1) Spray, Sharon L. & Karen L. McGlothlin. 2004. *Wetlands*. New York: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.
- (2) California Coastal Commission. 1987. *California Coastal Resource Guide*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

EVALUATION:

- A. Seminar Performance (Oral) = 50%
[Includes **daily participation & serious interaction** with your county group; **daily** reports on your progress; and oral presentation of the final project. My T.A. will be keeping a record of this.]
- B. County Project (Written) = 50%
[Components written as a team (e.g., Introductory Pages) will receive the same grade; components written individually (e.g., Manuscript Pages) will be individually graded. All must be of professional quality, and according to the latest edition of Turabian: A Manual for Writers, and all course handouts.]
- C. Other Important Factors = The points from items "A" and "B" are first subtotaled. Then, I may (or may not) raise or lower the original points based on the following:
 1. Your group's self evaluation of each other.
 2. My own evaluation of such important intangibles as your attitude, improvement over the semester, initiative, motivation, dependability, and ability to work with fellow colleagues. In other words, I'm always asking myself . . .
Would I want to work with you as a colleague; would I write you a letter of recommendation if requested; and would I offer you a job if I had a chance???
- D. **REQUIRED** Elkhorn Slough Kayak Field Trip (Approx. price \$27.00). ONE LETTER GRADE OFF YOUR TERM GRADE FOR NOT ATTENDING. An extra written assignment may be substituted for those not wishing to kayak the slough. An extra written assignment will be required if you miss the trip for any reason. **Date of the trip:** _____(TBA); **Time:** _____(TBA).

A SPECIAL CAUTIONARY NOTE ABOUT PARTICIPATION:

In seminars (whether graduate or undergraduate level), one simply does not arrive late nor miss class. Furthermore, participation means "engaging" in the class discussion, not simply attending class. While I cannot fire you the way your boss could, I can definitely fill out your "Seminar Performance Evaluation Sheet" accordingly. More importantly, your performance in EnvS 144 will determine whether I write, or not write, a *letter of recommendation* on your behalf for a job.

STATEMENTS REGARDING PLAGERISM: See “*Addendum to all Course Syllabi*” on my faculty web page.

OFFICE HOURS:

Office: WSQ: 115A; Voice Mail: (408) 924-5455; E-Mail: Kleegary@comcast.net. PLEASE USE E-MAIL, NOT THE PHONE. IF YOU USE E-MAIL, I'LL GET BACK TO YOU WITHIN 24 HOURS, OR I'LL BUY YOU A CUP OF COFFEE. Office Hours: TBA: _____; There is a sign-up sheet on my office door; please plan your visits (i.e., sign up a week or two in advance). Note: If no one is signed up for the office time in advance, I often leave and work on other things.