

San José State University
College of Social Sciences / Environmental Studies Department
ENVS 150, Introduction to Environmental Thought and Philosophy
Summer 2015

Instructor: Dr. Will Russell
Office Location: Washington Square Hall 115B
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Class Days/Time: Monday & Wednesdays
Online: 06/03/13 - 07/05/13
Library Liaison: Peggy Cabrera (peggy.cabrera@sjsu.edu)

Course Description

An introduction to significant works in the field of environmental studies. Topics covered include preservation, conservation, biocentrism, environmental justice, eco-feminism, deep ecology, and environmental activism.

Course Overview and Organization

This course is designed to provide upper division students with an opportunity to investigate the historic and cultural context of environmental thought, history, and philosophy. The evolution of our society has direct and profound influence on our attitudes toward nature. These attitudes are reflected in science, literature, government, religion, art, and our management of natural resources.

Department Program Learning Outcomes

The Department Program Learning Outcomes for all Environmental Studies undergraduates and graduate students are found at <http://www.sjsu.edu/depts/EnvStudies/assessment/>. This course will be used to promote undergraduate student learning for the following outcomes:

SLO 1 - Qualitative Environmental Literacy: Students are able to write a logical analytical paper using good writing style and construction supported by appropriate research.

SLO 3 - Content Environmental Literacy: Students will develop proficiency in the interdisciplinary sustainability principles that are the foundation of environmental studies; they will know the key environmental challenges facing the planet, know relevant interdisciplinary information about these challenges, and be able to develop/identify feasible solutions

Required Text s

American Earth. American Earth: Environmental Writing Since Thoreau. Bill McKibben, Editor. Library of America. 2008.

Supplemental Texts

Abbey, Edward. 1975. The Monkey Wrench Gang.
Atwood, Margaret. 2003. Oryx and Crake
Carpenter, Novella. 2009. Farm City. The Education of an Urban Farmer.
Elk, Black. 1972. Back Elk Speaks.
Quinn, Daniel. 1992. Ishmael: An Adventure of the Mind and Spirit.

Dropping and Adding

You are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. Information on add/drops is available at <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-298.html>. Late drop information is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/policies/latedrops>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes.

Assignments and Grading Policy

Please read the following assignment descriptions carefully. Failing to comply with the specific directions given below will result in a loss of credit points for each assignment. Please note that all assignments will be due by 11:59pm (PST) on the date due, and **no late work will be accepted under any circumstances**.

Personal Introduction

On the first day of class post a 300–word personal biography that includes your academic major, year, and a brief description of the people and experiences that have shaped your world-view.

Reaction and Response

Every class day you will post a 500-600 word ‘Reaction’ to the day’s readings to the ‘Discussions’ section in Canvas. The Reaction should address the discussion question posted by the instructor for that day. In addition, each student must post two 100-word ‘Responses’ to other students’ posted Reactions. The Reaction must be received by 11:59pm on the day that the reading is due; the response will be due by 11:59 pm on the following class day.

Personal Environmental Philosophy

A 1000-1200 word personal environmental philosophy will be required from each student. This should not be a reiteration of the ‘Personal Introduction’. The essay should include

references to the materials discussed in the readings as well as the student's personal journey. See course schedule for date due.

Book Review

Choose one of the books from the supplemental book list and write a 2500-3000 word essay that includes a summary of the book, an analysis of topics addressed by the author, and a brief review of literature related to these topics. A minimum of five literature references (in addition to the chosen book) will accompany the paper and will be cited in the text in the parenthetical APA style.

Grading

Your grade in this course will be based on your essays and discussion postings as follows, with 90-100=A; 80-89=B; 70-79=C; 60-69=D; and less than 60 = F:

Assignment	Points for Each	Total Points
Personal Introduction		14
Reaction Papers (8)	5 each	40
Responses (16)	1 each	16
Environmental Philosophy		30
Total		<i>100</i>

University Policies

Academic Integrity

Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San José State University, 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://sa.sjsu.edu/student_conduct.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

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 me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with DRC to establish a record of their disability.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library.

**ENVS 150 / Environmental Thoughts - Course Schedule
Winter 2012-13**

Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments Due
6/3	Personal Introduction		Introduction Statement
6/5	Early Environmentalists	Thoreau 1-2; 26-36 Marsh 71-80	Reaction paper 1
6/10	Preservation vs. Conservation	Muir 84-85; 104-112 Pinchot 172-180	Reaction paper 2
6/12	The Land Ethic	Leopold 266-294	Reaction paper 3
6/17	Beginning of the Modern Environmental Movement	Carson 365-376 Ehrlich 434-437	Reaction paper 4 <i>Environmental Philosophy Due</i>
6/19	Privatization and the Commons	Hardin 438-450 Water Privatization – by Public Citizen	Reaction paper 5
6/24	Changes in the Land in Words and Pictures	Crumb 590-594; Cronon 632-658	Reaction paper 6
6/26	Environmental Justice and EcoFeminism	Chavez 690-695 http://www.thegreenfuse.org/ecofem.htm	Reaction paper 7
7/1	The New Agricultural Revolution	Pollan 948-969 Urban Agriculture in San Jose	Reaction paper 8
7/3			<i>Book Review Due</i>