

San José State University
College of Social Sciences / Environmental Studies Department
ENVS 150, Intro. to Environmental Thought and Philosophy Spring 2019

Instructor: Dr. Will Russell
Office Location: Washington Square Hall 115B
Email: will.russell@sjsu.edu
Class Time: Monday 10:30-11:45
Classroom: WSQ 111
Office Hours: Monday 1:30-2:30 or by apt.
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 section of ENVS 150 will be organized as an online hybrid course. We will meet one day a week in class, but be prepared for significant work outside of class as well.

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 Texts

- American Earth. American Earth: Environmental Writing Since Thoreau. Bill McKibben, Editor. Library of America. 2008.
- Additional readings are linked to each course module on Canvas, and urls for you tube movies are given in the course modules.

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.**

Reaction and Response

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, and include quotes from the text to support your ideas. In addition, each student must post two 'Responses' to other students' posted Reactions. For full credit Responses will encourage dialog by challenging assumptions and asking questions. The Reaction and Responses must be posted by the day of class.

Selected Reading

For this assignment, you will choose one of the readings from American Earth that was not assigned by the instructor and write a 1000-1200 word essay on the topic of the reading, the life and influence of the author, and how the ideas presented by the author relate to the topics discussed in class. *Hint:* Choose a reading that you are interested in, not just the shortest reading in the book ☺.

Environmental Philosophy

Each student will formally present their environmental philosophy in class (5 minutes). The philosophy should include direct references to the philosophies, authors, and topics described in the course readings and class discussions. Also include how your personal lens - cultural identity, gender, family history, life experience, etc. influence your philosophy. Be sure to answer the question “How do I as an individual relate to the natural world – am I a part of it, or apart from it?”

In addition, each student will turn in a 1000-1500 word personal environmental philosophy essay. The philosophy should describe your personal environmental perspective in direct reference to the course readings and class discussions. Also include how your personal lens - cultural identity, gender, family history, life experience, etc. influence your philosophy. Be sure to answer the question “How do I as an individual relate to the natural world – am I a part of it, or apart from it?” Include a bibliography with referenced material in APA style that includes at least five outside references (not from the course text). You may include as many references from the text as you like. See course schedule for date due.

Exams

Two exams will be given that cover the course material. An open book online midterm exam, and an in-person closed book final exam. Both exams will cover all course material up until the day of the exam including: readings and module content, discussions, and assignments. The exam will include short answer, multiple-choice, and essay style questions.

Presentations

As a presenter it is your job to make your subject informative and entertaining. Please be professional and creative!

Respect and decorum

All class participants will behave in a manner that provides a positive and comfortable learning environment for everybody.

Grading

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

Assignment	% of Grade
Reactions and Responses	15%
In Class Assignments	10%
Selected Reading	10%
Environmental Philosophy <i>Presentation (5%)</i> <i>Written (20%)</i>	25%
Midterm Exam	10%
Final Exam	30%
Total	100%

University Policies

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/>

Dropping and Adding

Drop Deadline: Monday, February 5, is the last day to drop a class without a “W” grade.

Add Deadline: Monday, February 12, is the last day to add a course & Register Late.

Academic integrity

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act.

**ENVS 150 / Environmental Thought - Course Schedule
Spring 2018**

Date	Topics	Readings	Assignments Due
1/28	Course Introduction, and Personal Introductions		
2/4	Traditional Ecological Knowledge	Mann "Great Law of Peace" Chief Seattle "Oration 1854" Black Elk "The Great Vision"	Reaction 1
2/11	Roots of Environmentalism	Marsh 71-80 Thoreau 1-2; 26-36 Thoreau "Civil Disobedience"	Reaction 2
2/18	Preservation vs. Conservation	Muir 84-85; 104-112 Pinchot 172-180	Reaction 3
2/25	Ecology and the Early Environmental Movement	Carson 365-376 Abbey 413-433	Reaction 4
3/4	The Tragedy of the Commons and the Population Bomb!	Hardin 438-450 Ehrlich 434-437	Reaction 5
3/11	Environmental Justice	Chavez 690-695 <i>You Tube: Dolores Huerta</i> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YzMepBzH3pM <i>You Tube: Mustafa Ali:</i> www.youtube.com/watch?v=dtC4oFV5Ejo	Reaction 6
3/18	EcoFeminism	Vandana Shiva "Women in Nature." Judi Bari "The Feminization of Earth First!" <i>You Tube: Who Bombed Judi Bari:</i> www.youtube.com/watch?v=HWApXvSjMKY	Reaction 7
3/25	Midterm Exam		
W 3/27	<i>No class meeting</i>		<i>Selected Reading Essay Due</i>
4/1	Cesar Chavez Day - Spring Recess		
4/8	Deep Ecology	Naess and Sessions "On Depth Ecology"	Reaction 8 <i>Selected</i>
4/15	Direct Action and	McKibben (Hill 907-919)	Reaction 9

Date	Topics	Readings	Assignments Due
	Civil Disobedience	Thoreau "Civil Disobedience"	
4/22	Environmentalism Now!	Pope Francis "Encyclical" Evo Morales "Letter on Climate Change." Carter "Science and Trump"	Reaction 10
4/29	Environmental Philosophies		<i>Environmental Philosophies Presentations</i>
5/6	Environmental Philosophies		<i>Environmental Philosophies Presentations</i>
W 5/8	<i>No class meeting</i>		<i>Written Environmental Philosophies Due</i>
5/13	Final Exam!		