

**San José State University**  
**Department of Environmental Studies**  
**ENVS 154: Sustainable Agriculture (4 units)**  
**Fall 2015**

<b>Instructor</b>	Gina Bacigalupi
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<b>Office Hours</b>	Office: Washington Square Hall (WSQ) 216G Office Hours: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tuesday: 1:30-2:30pm</li> <li>• Wednesday: Noon-1pm</li> <li>• By appointment</li> </ul>
<b>Class Days &amp; Times</b>	Monday: 1:30-2:45pm Wednesday: 1:30-5:50pm (end time will vary)
<b>Classroom</b>	Monday: Clark Hall Rm. 303 Wednesday: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Studies Sustainable Agriculture Garden</li> <li>• Farm Field Trips</li> <li>• Clark Hall Rm. 303</li> </ul>
<b>Last Day of Class</b>	Monday, December 7 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Finals Day</b>	Wednesday, December 16 <sup>th</sup> : 12:15-2:30

**Course Description:**

As recently as 50 years ago, Silicon Valley was still known as the Valley of Heart's Delight, due to its world-renowned orchards, vineyards, and meadows. Today, the majority of fruit eaten in the U.S. is imported, at great energy cost, from other countries. Insecticide, herbicide, and fertilizer use, staples of California's production agricultural systems, continue to increase worldwide, but agricultural yields are dropping in intensified agroecosystems. More than enough food is produced for every human being on earth to be well-fed, yet millions go hungry every night. Furthermore, modern agriculture contributes some of the greatest environmental damage we see in the world today.

What about sustainable agriculture? California is home to some of the most innovative, alternative agricultural practices in the world, as well. Organically-farmed acreage is growing at an unprecedented rate worldwide, and conventionally farmed land is on the decline. Fair-trade and biodiversity-friendly farming is on the upswing, and movements to protect indigenous and traditional farming systems are getting stronger.

Through this course, students will explore environmentally sustainable methods of food production, emphasizing biological diversity, water conservation, soil health, social equity, and economic justice. There will be a special focus on primary research in the natural and social sciences, as related to sustainable agriculture. This course combines lecture and in-class discussion with field trips and labs. There is one major written assignment, a formal lab-write up, an individual/small group poster &

presentation, and all students will keep and submit a field/lab notebook. Students will also be expected to participate in discussions about class readings, lecture material, and/or via class activities each week.

### **Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives:**

The goals of this course are:

1. To examine the environmental costs and benefits of the conventional modern food production practices in California and around the world
2. To contrast these with alternative food production methods
3. To learn research methods from the natural and social sciences to help promote and restore the sustainability of food systems locally, nationally, and internationally

### Information Literacy Learning Objectives:

1. An information literate student determines the nature and extent of the information needed. The information literate student defines and articulates the need for information, as well as identifies a variety of types and formats of potential sources of information.
2. An information literate student evaluates information and its sources critically and incorporates selected information into his/her knowledge base. Students summarize the main ideas to be extracted from the information gathered, articulates and applies criteria for evaluating both the information and its sources, and synthesizes main ideas to construct new concepts.
3. The information literate student understands the economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of information, and accesses and uses information ethically and legally.

**Prerequisites:** ENVS 001 and GE B2 course (i.e. ENVS 010), or instructor consent

### **Credit Hours:**

Success in this course is based on the expectation that for 4 units of credit, students will spend an average of 5 hours a week in class and an average of 7 hours a week outside of class preparing, studying, working on assignments, or on course-related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

### **Canvas:**

Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, assignment handouts, field trip directions, lecture PowerPoints, etc. will be posted on Canvas. It is YOUR responsibility to register for the course on Canvas and REGULARLY checking it for updates about the course. You may also sign up for alerts. Be proactive and thoroughly search for what you are looking for before contacting the instructor. The instructor will post (& email) any last minute changes. You will also be submitting (some) assignments through Canvas (& its Turnitin feature).

## Required Texts, Readings, & Equipment/Materials:

### Texts:

- Gliessman SR. 2015. Agroecology: The Ecology of Sustainable Food Systems (3<sup>rd</sup> edition). Boca Raton (FL): CRC Press 371 p.
- Gliessman SR. 2015. Field and Laboratory Investigations in Agroecology (3rd edition). Boca Raton (FL): CRC Press 240 p.

### Other Readings:

- Will be assigned in class and distributed in hard copy and/or posted on Canvas.

### Equipment/Materials:

- Quad-ruled, composition-style notebook (non-spiral-bound)
- Writing implement (pencil and dark blue or black ink)
- Loose-leaf paper or lined notebook (for lecture notes, freewrites, etc)
- Dress to get dirty and be outside!
  - CLOSED-TOED SHOES (i.e. hiking/work boots) = REQUIRED!
    - Note: If you show up to a field trip without closed-toed shoes, you will not be allowed on the field trip and will lose your participation points for the day (and subsequently the lab notebook points for the write-up of that site)
  - Long pants (instead of shorts) are ideal
  - Sunscreen, hat, sunglasses
  - Water & snacks

## Classroom Protocol

### Class/General:

Inappropriate use of phones during class is a disruption to all and will NOT be tolerated. Phones should be on silent or off and put away. A first offence will result in a verbal warning, with repeat disruption of the class resulting in forfeiture of participation points, with placing the phone on the instructor's desk for the remainder of the class meeting or dismissal from the class meeting possible. Notify the instructor in advance if you are expecting a phone call. If you need to take a call, please step outside. Several breaks will be factored into each on-campus, Wednesday, class meeting.

**If you would like to or have special needs that require you to use an electronic device (i.e. a laptop) to take notes during lecture, please speak with the instructor.** Inappropriate use of electronic devices such as laptops and tablets will NOT be tolerated. They must be used for note-taking, unless otherwise instructed.

Music players and any other electronic devices must be turned off and stored in your backpack/purse.

Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's, guest's, or host's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class or on a field trip. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor, guest, or host; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material. Additionally, course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor-generated material, guest lectures, or farmer interview recordings for this course without consent of the intellectual property owners involved.

Please do not come to class intoxicated in any way. You will be asked to leave, and your grade will suffer.

Bottom line: Treat instructor, classmates, guest speakers, and farm hosts with respect. Be considerate of others.

### Field Trips:

Off-campus field trips are a requirement of the course. Failure to attend a field trip will drop your grade by 10%. If you are ill and physically unable to attend, a doctor's note will need to be presented to the instructor. An alternative assignment or field trip will then be assigned. If you have other extenuating circumstances, please speak with the instructor in advance. Otherwise, there are no make-ups for field trips.

Some travel time will be factored into the off-campus field trips. You are responsible for arranging your own transportation to the field trips, since the university is not able to provide transportation and your instructor is not allowed to coordinate carpools. If you are running late or have a last minute emergency, please call or text the instructor.

Cell phone use during a field trip is disrespectful to our host and disruptive. Phones need to be on silent and put away. Notify the instructor if you are expecting a call. If you need to take a call, please step away from the group to answer it. Inappropriate use will first result in a verbal warning. Subsequent infractions will result in a loss of participation points for the day with the possibility of loss of points for the write-up of the site and/or dismissal from the field trip.

Please arrive promptly, appropriately dressed, have your notebook prepared, act responsibly, and be respectful, and we will have a great time!

### **Assignments:**

#### Reading & Participation:

**Students are expected to attend each class on time, complete the assigned readings BEFORE class** (this includes reading about the lab experiments for the day), **take good notes, ask questions, turn assignments in on time, pick up class handouts, and participate in lab experiments, group discussions, class activities, and the field trips.** You will receive participation points for attending class and contributing to discussions and labs and participating in class activities and the field trips (i.e. by asking our farm host questions). **You must be present and prepared to receive participation points; there are no makeup points for missed class.** Freewrites (i.e reading/video response) and discussions will be based on textbook content, lectures, assigned reading, and field trips.

#### Field Trips:

See above.

#### Lab Notebooks:

Specific formatting guidelines for the lab notebook will be handed out during the first class and posted on Canvas. Lab notebooks should be quad-ruled, composition-style. The lab write-ups should be handwritten in either pencil or indelible ink (i.e. waterproof). If you have not used Excel to make charts and graphs, please see the instructor or student assistant(s) for assistance. The preparation assigned for each lab is due at the START of class or field trip. (This may be spot checked as part of the day's participation points without announcement.) Any shared data you will use for the lab write-ups will be posted on Canvas. It is your/your group's responsibility to contribute to class data.

### Term Paper:

This is a multi-step process that will span a large portion of the semester and will comprise a significant portion of your course grade. A handout with specific details of each assignment will be distributed and discussed in class and posted on Canvas. You should choose a FOCUSED topic related to sustainable agriculture of which academic studies have been conducted and you must also include AT LEAST 5 peer-reviewed journal articles as supporting evidence.

The term paper and its components require that you use and properly reference peer-reviewed, academic journal articles. If you are unfamiliar with how to do this, please speak with the instructor, visit the Writing Center or ACCESS, and/or speak with our Library Liaison.

### General Note about Submitting Assignments:

An assignment (i.e. Term Paper components) should be turned in as a **hard copy to the instructor at the beginning of class AND submitted electronically to Canvas by NOON** on the due date, unless otherwise mentioned. The instructor will be using the Turnitin feature on Canvas. Typed assignments are to be **12pt Times New Roman with 1-inch margins all around.**

### Final Exam:

None! However, you are required to attend Finals Day as well as submit any assignments that are due.

### Extra Credit:

The instructor will announce in class any opportunities for extra credit. It is YOUR responsibility to record details of these assignments. Think of extra credit as a buffer, not a reason or excuse to not do your best on regular assignments. It is up to the instructor's discretion whether to cap the amount of extra credit students can get. This cap would be the same for all students.

### Late Work:

It is **NOT** accepted, so please get your assignments in on time. If you have extenuating circumstances, please speak with the instructor. For instance, if you are ill, please notify the instructor; you will need to provide a doctor's note.

### Citation Method:

We will use the Council for Science Editors (CSE) Name-Year citation method. Your go-to resource for citation formatting help is: [http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/DocCSE\\_NameYear.html](http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/DocCSE_NameYear.html). Any ideas that are not 100% yours MUST be properly cited.

## Grading Policy

Your grade will be based on your assignments and class participation.

<b>Grade Scale:</b>
A = 93%-100%
A- = 90%-92%
B+ = 87%-89%
B = 83%-86%
B- = 80%-82%
C+ = 77%-79%
C = 73%-76%
C- = 70-72%
D = 60-69%
F = < 60%

Please note: Grades will not be curved. It is up to the discretion of the instructor whether to bump up a student's grade at the end of the semester. Quality of work, general improvement, and evident effort may be taken into consideration when considering a grade bump. It is also up to the instructor's discretion whether or not to give an A+.

### Overview of Points Available

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Point Value</b>
<i>Reading/Participation</i>	245
Freewrites	100
Participation	145
<i>Term Paper</i>	320
Topic Proposal	(20)
Annotated Bibliography	(30)
Annotated Outline	(50)
First Draft	(120)
Final Draft	(100)
<i>Lab Notebook</i>	489*
1 <sup>st</sup> Check	10
2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , & 4 <sup>th</sup> Checks (Total)	479*
Lab 1	(60)
Lab 3/4/5	(60)
Lab 11/15	(60)
Lab 19	(60)
Lab 22	(60)
Lab 23	(179)*
<i>Formal Lab Write-Up</i>	70
<i>Individual/Small Group Poster</i>	50
<i>Informal Paper Presentation</i>	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>1184*</b>
(*subject to change)	

## **University Policies & Resources**

### **Dropping & Adding:**

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's Catalog Policies section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the Academic Calendars website at [http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic\\_calendars/](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/). The Late Drop Policy is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes. Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>

### **Academic Integrity:**

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San José State University. Students should know that the University's Academic Integrity Policy is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf>. SJSU's Academic Integrity Policy requires you to be honest in all your academic coursework. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The website for Student Conduct and Ethical Development is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to use an assignment or any material you have submitted or plan to submit for another class for ENVS 154, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of all instructors involved.

### **Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act:**

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with the instructor as soon as possible or see the instructor during office hours. Retroactive assignment accommodations will not be granted by the instructor. Presidential Directive 97-03 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/president/directives/current/pd9703/>) requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center (AEC) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/aec>) to establish a record of their disability.

### **Library Liaison:**

Peggy Cabrera ([peggy.cabrera@sjsu.edu](mailto:peggy.cabrera@sjsu.edu)) is the Library Liaison for the Department of Environmental Studies. She is a great resource who is available via email and in person by appointment.

### **SJSU Writing Center:**

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center offers workshops on a variety of writing and has writing-related resources on their website. Visit <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter> to learn more or to make an appointment.

**Study/Work Area & Academic Support: ACCESS Success Center**

The Academic Counseling Center for Excellence in the Social Sciences (ACCESS Success Center) is located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Clark Hall. Quiet study/work areas are available as well as tutoring (i.e. writing & statistics) and academic and professional advising. Visit <http://www.sjsu.edu/access/> to learn more. Note: They have writing tutors available; this could be an additional option/resource to the Writing Center for you.

**Student Technology Resources:**

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall, on the 2nd floor of the Student Union, and in the Martin Luther King Library. Additional computer labs may be available in your department or college. Media Services in IRC 112 lends a variety of A/V equipment, including digital and VHS camcorders, VHS and Beta video players, 16 mm, slide, overhead, DVD, CD, and audiotape players, sound systems and wireless microphones, and projection screens and monitors.

**Peer Connections (formerly Learning Assistance Resource Center):**

Peer Connections (<http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu>) in Room 600 of the Student Services Center is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to motivate them to become self-directed learners. The center provides support services, such as skills assessment, individual or group tutorials, subject advising, learning assistance, summer academic preparation and basic skills development.