

San José State University
College of Social Science/Department of Environmental Studies
ENVS 158 Environmental Education, Spring 2019 (27789)

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Office Hours:	Tue 1:30-2:30pm, or by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Tue/Thur 3:00-4:15pm
Classroom:	Clark 243

Course Description

Our ability to relate to the natural world is influenced by the experiences we had with nature as children. The development of our technological society has separated us from the rhythms and cycles of the Earth. In the synthetic environments that we have created, childhood curiosity has become increasingly focused on artificial pursuits and entertainments. By introducing children to the natural environment we can open the door to their native inquisitiveness about other species and the processes that sustain life on our planet. In our role as teachers, we have the opportunity to plant the seeds of understanding that will eventually germinate into a more environmentally conscious generation.

In addition to a review of current environmental issues this course explores the use of experiential learning techniques, environmental games, and hands-on activities as tools for helping children to become aware of their connection to the natural world. Unlike many subjects environmental studies is taught not only in a standard classroom setting, but also in a variety of outdoors settings. Alternative methods for teaching about the environment such as outdoor education, park interpretation, and community workshops will be explored in this course as well. Because of the wide range of possibilities for teaching environmental issues students who take this course do not need to be on the teaching credential track, though those that are will find this course valuable. Because this course is designed for those who are interested in some form of teaching I will expect a high level of self-motivation and professionalism.

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

The purpose of this course is to give students who are considering a teaching-related career a basic understanding of environmental issues, and the tools necessary to build environmental studies into a classroom curriculum. Within the context of this course each student will have the opportunity to develop and implement a lesson plan in an educational context. Students will also be exposed environmental education in a variety of different contexts, particularly experiential teaching/learning methods.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course students will have a clear understanding of basic ecology, environmental studies, and sustainability topics. Students will be able to create and teach an effective lesson on a science or environmental topic including hand on activities.

Information Literacy Learning Outcomes

- 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 for 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.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook/Readings

Broda, H.W. 2007. *Schoolyard Enhanced Learning: Using the Outdoors as an Instructional Tool, K-8*. Portland, ME: Stenhouse Publishers.

Karr, Susan et al. 2015. *Environmental Science for a Changing World*. New York, NY: WH Freeman and Company.

Additional readings may be assigned in class and will be available on Canvas.

Other equipment / material

You will need access to a computer with Microsoft Word and the internet. Be sure to bring pencil and/or pens with blue or black ink and paper to every class even if you take notes on a laptop. Although art supplies will be provided, you may wish to bring colored pens, pencils, or crayons.

Library Liaison

Peggy Cabrera (peggy.cabrera@sjsu.edu or 408-808-2034) is the Library Liaison for the Department of Environmental Studies. She is a great resource who is available at the Reference Desk in MLK Library Tuesdays 12-1pm, Wednesdays 11am-12pm, or by appointment.

Classroom Protocol

The use of laptops during class time will be restricted to in-class activities and note taking. Students who use their computers for other activities or who abuse the equipment in any way, at a minimum, will be asked to leave the class and will lose participation points for the day. Cell phones, music players, and any other electronic devices must be turned off and stored in your backpack/purse. **Any** use of electronic devices during quizzes and exams is considered cheating, and will result in a failing grade.

Grading Policy

Your grade will be based on your exams, assignments, and class participation. All assignments are to be turned in through Canvas before the specified due date and time or at the beginning of the due date class unless otherwise indicated.

Grade Scale

97%-100% = A+	93% - 96% = A	90% - 92% = A-
87% - 89% = B+	83% - 86% = B	80% - 82% = B-
77% - 79% = C+	73% - 76% = C	70% - 72% = C-
60% - 69% = D	less than 60% = F	

Late Work

All assignments are due **before 3:00pm on the due date** listed in the course calendar. Late work is **NOT** accepted. This includes any homework or in-class activities that are due at the beginning of class; if you are late to class, assignments will not be accepted. Exceptions may be considered for legitimate and documented circumstances (medical emergency, death in the family) with proper documentation.

Extra Credit

Students are responsible for recording the details of any offered extra credit opportunities. Think of extra credit as a buffer, not a reason or excuse to not do your best on regular assignments.

Grading Overview

Assignment	Points
Assignments	200
Student Led Activity	30
Midterm	50
Final Exam	100
Class Participation/Activities	120
TOTAL	500*
*subject to change	

Course Requirements and Assignments

The exams and assignments are designed to help you learn the course material and develop skills for evaluating, analyzing, and expressing solutions to environmental issues. **For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified.** All written take home assignments are to be submitted in electronic form through Canvas unless otherwise noted.

Assignments

There will be several assignments that range in length and topic. Some will delve deeper into science topics while others will build your “toolbox” of teaching resources. Details for assignments will be discussed in class and will be available on Canvas.

Canvas Instructions

For this course, all take home assignments must be turned in through the Canvas learning management system, unless otherwise noted. If you have trouble with this, please come see me. **All assignments are due before 3:00pm on the due date listed in the course calendar.** Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, assignment handouts, lecture PowerPoints, etc. will be posted on Canvas.

Formatting

Please note that all assignments need to be formatted as follows: 12 point font, Times New Roman, 1 inch margins, doubled spaced, include a header with name and date, and use Turabian/Chicago formatting where applicable. A 10% deduction will occur for not following these guidelines.

Midterm and Final Exam

A written midterm and final exam will be given covering all material from the readings, lectures, discussions, and other activities. The exams may consist of short answer, essay, and multiple-choice questions.

Class Participation, Readings, In-Class Activities

Students will be expected to actively participate in their learning. As much of this course is based on activities, presentations, and discussions, each student's participation is necessary for the class to function. Students are expected to attend each class on time, complete the assigned readings before class, take good notes, ask questions, turn assignments in on time, pick up class handouts, and participate in class debates, discussions, and activities. You will receive participation points for contributing to debates and discussions and participating in activities. **You must be present and prepared to receive participation points; there are no makeup points for missed class.**

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide 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/>"

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. See [University Policy S12-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf), <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>.

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 for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.

Academic integrity

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf> 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 [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>. Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. **Cheating on exams or 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 include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of both instructors.

Resources for Students

There are many resources on campus available to you. Some examples include: SJSU Peer Connections Center, the College of Social Science Access Center, SJSU Writing Center, SJSU Counseling and Psychological Service, SJSU Student Health Center, the Academic Success Center, and many places to use or get help with technology. See the [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/> for more info or come see me.