

**ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES 191
ADVANCED ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION
SPRING 2015**

Class Hours:	Thursday 12pm – 1:15 pm, Saturday 10am – 1:20pm
Instructor:	Miranda Melen
Office Hours:	Tuesday/Thursday 10:30am – 11:30am, or by appointment
Office:	WSQ 115B
Email:	miranda.melen@sjsu.edu
Course Website:	available on Canvas
Course Units:	4 (= 12 hours per week)
Prerequisites:	ENVS Core and ENVS 187, or consent of the instructor

COURSE OBJECTIVE

Natural habitats have suffered tremendous damage and destruction at the hands of humans. California habitats are no exception. At least 90% of historic wetlands and 99% of the native grasslands have been lost to agriculture, urbanization or other human uses (Snow 2010; Barry, Larson, and George 2006). Numerous rare species are now associated with these very reduced and fragmented habitats. The loss of ecosystems and their functions is a problem not only for the resident species, but also for humans. Ecosystem destruction results in economic burdens including the cost of recovering rare species and the replacement costs for ecosystem services. In order to reverse these problems, habitat must not only be preserved, but restored. Because of its benefits, environmental restoration is very popular with the American public and is supported by government agencies at all levels.

In EnvS 187, you learned the basics of successful restoration projects, including restoration planning, implementation and monitoring, and the ecological principles that should drive them. This advanced course puts into practice the knowledge and theory you have learned. As advanced restoration students, you will actually work on a current restoration project for an agency or other organization that requires restoration expertise. Project work will depend on the needs of our client, but likely tasks include preparation of a restoration plan, implementation of a planned project, baseline study of an unrestored site, monitoring of a restored site and/or characterization of model sites. Students will apply appropriate field techniques, learn data analysis methods, and will develop report-writing skills.

COURSE FORMAT

This is a lecture/field course that requires research outside of the classroom and independent. **This is a four-unit course, which means you are expected to devote 12 hours of work per week to this class through participation in the classroom, field trips, homework, and independent study.**

Assignments and readings are listed here and must be completed on the dates listed. Excellent writing skills are essential. Assignments must be stylistically correct. Students must be willing to spend time in the field collecting the data necessary to complete the assigned tasks. Students must be flexible to a changing schedule and deliverables as the project evolves.

In order to pass this class you must attend class regularly, attend all of the field trips, and complete all assignments. Unlike ENVS 187 (Environmental Restoration) you may not miss any of these field trips without penalty. One missed field trip will drop your grade one full letter grade. The points that you earn on the assignments will determine the grade that you get in the class, and your attendance on the field trips will determine your grade in the field portion of the class (although you cannot pass the class without a passing grade in both).

ASSIGNMENTS

The primary assignment is a written report based on research that we will conduct for a client. As part of this project, you will do literature reviews, perform fieldwork, assist with data analysis, and write a report that will be submitted to our client at the end of the semester. As a class, we will present our findings to our client.

Some of the written assignments will be turned in to Turnitin.com. We will use this website to assess the originality of the writing that will be included in the report that will be submitted to our client, and to determine if portions of the text may need to be rewritten to make the text unique. This is a great tool to help you develop strong reading and writing skills for the future. You need to reduce your similarity percentage to 10-15% (total); your percentage will be used in the scoring of your papers.

The table below is a *tentative* list of assignments for the class. Assignments may be changed, added, or deleted as needed. You must come to class to keep up to date with the project. Group work needs to be submitted with all group members' names, and a percentage that specifies how much each member worked on that assignment. All members of the group will receive the same grade (no exceptions). All students will participate in the presentation.

Assignment	Point Value
Individual Paper: Ecosystem Summary	100
Group Presentation: Ecosystem Summary	50
Group Paper & Presentation: Invasive Species	100
Group Paper: Methodology	100
Project Description	100 points per group per Drafts 1-3, 200 points per group for Final Draft (500 total)
Setting	
Methods	
Results	
Discussion/Recommendations	
Presentation	100
Peer Reviews	20 points per draft (100 points total)
Effort (Self and Teacher Evaluation)	50
Quizzes	Extra Credit
Total	1,100 points

Readings (Additions TBA in class):

Reid, A.M, L. Morin, P.O. Downey, K. French, and J.G. Virtue. 2009. Does invasive plant management aid the restoration of natural ecosystems? Biological Conservation 142(2009):2342-2349.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

Library Liaison

Peggy Cabrera is our liaison for Environmental Studies. Reach her at: peggy.cabrera@sjsu.edu

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall. This can be a source of great help.
<http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>

CLASS POLICY

Late Assignment Policy:

All assignments are due on the day that they are listed. One assignment may be turned in up to one class meeting late with no penalty. The second assignment turned in late will be penalized 30% (from the total score earned). The 3rd late assignment will be penalized 60% (from the total score earned). If you turn in 4 or more assignments late you will not pass this class.

Grading:

Grades are determined according to this scale:

98-100% = A+	88-89% = B+	78-79% = C+	60-69% = D
92-97% = A	83-87% = B	72-77% = C	59 and below = F
90-91% = A-	80-81% = B-	70-71% = C-	

Your grade will be accessible via Canvas.

UNIVERSITY POLICY

Academic integrity

You should know that the University's Academic Integrity Policy is available at www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S04-12.pdf. Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University and the University's integrity policy, require 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 website for Student Conduct and Ethical Development is available at 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 instructors.

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 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 the DRC (Disability Resource Center) to establish a record of their disability.

Policy S12-3 regarding Definition of the Credit Hour

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of forty-five hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Policy S12-7 regarding 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. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.

- Video recordings may not be taken of this class.
- Audio recordings are permissible, but may not be reproduced or distributed.

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.