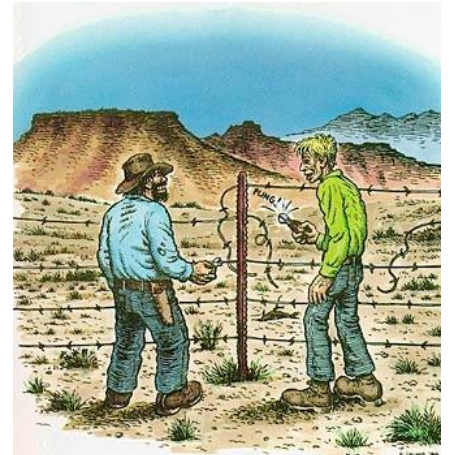


San José State University
Department of Environmental Studies
ENVS 250, Environmental Thought and Philosophy, Spring '17

Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Will Russell
Office Location: Washington Square Hall (WSQ) 115E
Telephone: (408) 924-5487
Email: will.russell@sjsu.edu
Office Hours: Wednesday, 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM, and by special appointment
Class Days/Time: Wednesday, 4:15 PM – 7:00 PM
Classroom: Washington Square Hall (WSQ) 111



Course Description

An intensive, critical analysis of current and historic works of significance in the field of environmental studies, with emphasis on their contributions toward the evolution of conservation and environmental thought. Topics covered include preservation versus conservation, biocentrism, environmental justice, eco-feminism, deep ecology, and environmental activism. Individual student research is presented with oral and written reports.

Course Overview

This seminar is designed to provide students with an opportunity to investigate the historic and cultural context of current environmental issues and philosophies. The evolution of our society has direct and profound influence on our attitudes toward nature. These attitudes are reflected in science, literature, government, art, and our management of natural resources. It will be the responsibility of each student to define the historic context of their own field of interest, present their findings to the class, and lead class discussions. As a graduate seminar, the goals of the course are to perfect communication skills as well as add to students' general understanding of environmental issues.

Learning Outcomes

Student Learning Objectives (SLO)

SLO - Knowledge of Environmental Thought: Students will demonstrate thorough knowledge of the history of environmental thought and specific topics including preservation versus conservation, biocentrism, environmental justice, eco-feminism, deep ecology, and environmental activism.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Diamond, Jared. 2005. Collapse: How societies choose to fail or succeed. Penguin Group. California.

Gottlieb, Robert. 2005. Forcing the Spring: The Transformation of the American Environmental Movement.
Quinn, Daniel. 1992. Ishmael: An adventure of the mind and spirit.
Worster, D. 1990. Nature's economy: A history of ecological ideas. Cambridge University Press.

Other Readings

Additional readings will be available on Canvas.

Course Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at [sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf).

NOTE that [University policy F69-24](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf> states that "Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading."

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.

Reaction and Response

Every class day that a reading has been assigned you will post a **300-400 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 should include quotes from the readings with page numbers in parentheses. In addition, each student must post a **minimum of two 'Responses'** to other students' posted Reactions. Students should attempt to get dialog going by asking questions, challenging assumptions, and posting responses to students they don't necessarily agree with. The Reaction and Responses must be posted by the time that class starts on the day of class.

Discussion Leader

Each student will choose one of the listed topics in the course schedule and create a presentation on the topic. The presentation will be based on instructor designated readings, as well any material researched by the student presenter. Each presenter will provide **one additional reading no more than 10 pages** in length that will be made available electronically one week in advance of the class meeting. The presentation will be **15-20 minutes** in length, and should be followed up with enough discussion questions and activities to keep class dialog going for **at least an hour**. The presentation may include activities, creative expression, and audio visual aids.

Research Paper

Each student will write a **4000-6000 word** (10-pages single spaced) research paper on a topic of their choosing that relates to the theme of the course (it is recommended that students explore their thesis topics with this paper). The paper will include the philosophical and theoretical foundation for the student's proposed Masters thesis topic (or other instructor approved topic). The paper will be presented in the standard collegiate essay form (introduction, body, conclusions, etc.). A minimum of

20-primary references will accompany the paper and will be cited in the text. The paper will be presented in APA format single spaced throughout with 12-point type. The essay will be submitted electronically through Canvas.

Research Paper Presentation

Each student will present their Environmental theory paper in class (**15 minutes**). The presentation should be professional in quality and creative in nature. Students are free to use PowerPoint or other audio visual aids, but are also welcome to include creative, participatory, and performance, aspects as well.

Grading Policy

Class Participation

1. Attendance – You are required to attend every class meeting unless you are ill or have an emergency. If you need to miss class for either of these reasons e-mail me as promptly as possible especially if you are expected to present that week.
2. Participation in discussions – Participation does not mean being verbose. In many cases allowing or encouraging others to speak is more valuable to the group dynamic. Providing the group your insights in an engaging and respectful manner. Statements are always more interesting if they are backed up by logic and evidence.
3. Presentations – As a presenter it is your job to make your subject informative and entertaining. Please be professional and creative!
4. **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 calculated as follows.

Assignment	Point Value
Reaction and Responses	20
Topic Discussion Leader	20
Research Paper	20
Research Paper Presentation	20
Participation	20
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>100</i>

Penalty for Late Work

All assignments will be turned in during class time by the due. Assignments turned in after the due date will be dropped a full letter grade for each class meeting that they are late.

Classroom Protocol

All use of cell phones during class time is strictly prohibited. Computers may be used during class time at the instructors discretion exclusively for tasks directly related to class activities. Students should be in class prepared to work at the beginning of each class session. Disruption of the class by students arriving late will not be tolerated. Failure to meet the expectations of classroom protocol will result in a loss of participation points.

University Policies

General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student

As members of the academic community, students accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SJSU's policies and practices pertaining to the procedures to follow if and when questions or concerns about a class arises. See [University Policy S90-5](http://sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf) at sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf. More detailed information on a variety of related topics is available in the [SJSU catalog](http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html), at <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html>. In general, it is recommended that students begin by seeking clarification or discussing concerns with their instructor. If such conversation is not possible, or if it does not serve to address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as a next step.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's [Catalog Policies](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) 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 webpage](http://sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars) at sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars. The [Late Drop Policy](http://sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy) is available at 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](http://sjsu.edu/advising) at sjsu.edu/advising.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

[University Policy S12-7](http://sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf), sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf, requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course:

- 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.
- 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://sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) at 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://sjsu.edu/studentconduct) is available at sjsu.edu/studentconduct.

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](http://sjsu.edu/presidential-directive-97-03) at

sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Accessible Education Center](#) (AEC) at sjsu.edu/aec to establish a record of their disability.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the [Academic Success Center](#) at sjsu.edu/at/asc located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab 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. A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

ENVS 250, Seminar: Environmental Thought and Philosophy, Spring 2017
Course Schedule

The schedule is subject to change with fair notice and the notice will be made available.

Date	Topics	Readings	Assignments Due
2/1	Course introduction: The History of the Earth in 60-min.		
2/8	Traditional Values and The First Americans	Mann - Great Law of Peace (Canvas) Hawaiin Cultural Landscape (Canvas) TBA	Reaction 1
2/15	Agrarian Ideals	Science in Arcadia (Worster) TBA	Reaction 2
2/22	Transition to Industrialism	The Empire of Reason (Worster) Montuschi Bacon (Canvas) TBA	Reaction 3
3/1	Biocentrism	Ishmael (Quinn) TBA	Reaction 4
3/8	The Romantic Era and the Roots of the American Environmental Movement	Transcendental Poetry (Canvas) Civil Disobedience (Canvas) Walden (Canvas) TBA	Reaction 5
3/15	The Progressive Era and the Great Debate	Muir Resources and Recreation (Gottlieb Chapter-1) Muir (Canvas) Pinchot (Canvas) TBA	Reaction 6
3/22	Beginnings of the Modern Environmental Movement	The Sixties Rebellion (Gottlieb Chapter-3) TBA	Reaction 7
3/29	Spring Break – No Class		
4/5	Deep Ecology	Naess and Sessions (Canvas) TBA	Reaction 8
4/12	Ecofeminism and Environmental Justice	Chavez (Canvas) Wrath of Grapes Video (Canvas) Bari (Canvas) Schmonskey (Canvas) TBA	Reaction 8

Date	Topics	Readings	Assignments Due
4/19	Collapse!	Collapse (Diamond Chapters 2, 3, 11, & 16) TBA	Reaction 10
4/26	Reassertion of Traditional Values in Modern Times	Pachamama (Canvas) Morales (Canvas) Encyclical (Canvas) TBA	Reaction 11
5/3	Research Paper Presentations		
5/10	Research Paper Presentations		Research Papers Due