

San José State University
College of Social Sciences/Environmental Studies Department
Course #45389, Section 2, Introduction to Environmental Thought & Philosophy, Fall
Semester 2019

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Robert Foran
Office Location:	Washington Square Hall, Room #111E
Telephone:	415-940-4917 (primary, this semester) / 408-924-8979 (office)
Email:	robert.foran@sjsu.edu (primary) / rmforan@gmail.com (secondary)
Office Hours:	Tuesday, 3 - 4:15 pm or by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Tuesday 4:30 – 7:15 pm
Classroom:	Clark Hall, Room #303A
Prerequisites:	Eng. 1A and Eng. 1B; upper division standing or instructor consent.

Course Format

This course uses multiple platforms of engagement such as in-class lectures, class discussions, group work, course readings, writing assignments/journaling, lesson plan development, and class presentations as a means of exploring and communicating ideas, concepts, and theoretical approaches concerning environmental thought and philosophy overtime and into the present through a critical lens. We will also be using Canvas through the MY SJSU Portal as a means of accessing additional class readings, to engage in some class discussions, and as a repository for most of the assignments. Canvas will also be a medium for communications between the professor and the students when we are not physically meeting.

Course Description

This course is 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 justice issues & activism. 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.

GE Learning Outcomes (GELO) and Supportive Course Learning Outcomes (SCLO)

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/Readings (Required)

Textbook(s)

- American Earth. American Earth: Environmental Writing Since Thoreau. Bill McKibben, Editor. Library of America. 2008.
- Ishmael: An adventure of the mind and spirit. Quinn, Daniel. 1992.
- Additional readings are linked to each course module on Canvas, and urls for you tube movies are given in the course modules.

Course Requirements: 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 Responses

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.

Ishmael Quiz

An open book online quiz will be given on the book Ishmael. The quiz will include short answer, multiple-choice, and essay style questions.

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.

Final Exam

An in class written exam will be given at the end of the semester covering all course material including: readings, module content, discussions, and assignments. The exam will include short answer, multiple-choice, and essay style questions.

Faculty members are required to have a culminating activity for their courses, which can include a final examination, a final research paper or project, a final creative work or performance, a final portfolio of work, or other appropriate assignment.

Presentations

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

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or 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.”

Grading Policy

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:

Determination of Grades

Assignment	% of Grade
Reactions and Responses	20%
In Class Assignments	20%
Ishmael Quiz	10%
Environmental Philosophy Presentation (10%) Written (10%)	25%
Final Exam	25%
Total	100%

Below are a few samples of accessible grading scale in table and non-table format. You can use either one or create your own grading scale as long as it is accessible with logical reading order. Different screen readers may read texts differently. The “+/- “ may not be read out loud. It is always a good practice to spell them out and spell out any abbreviations or make a reference of your abbreviation when used for the first time.

Passage of the Writing Skills Test (WST) or ENGL/LLD 100A with a C or better (C- not accepted), and completion of Core General Education are prerequisite to all SJSU Studies courses. Completion of, or co- registration in, 100W is strongly recommended. A minimum aggregate GPA of 2.0 in GE Areas R, S, & V shall be required of all students.

Classroom Protocol

Respect and decorum

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

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant information to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. is 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/>". Make sure to visit this page, review and be familiar with these university policies and resources.

Course #45389/ENVS 150: Introduction to Environmental Thought & Philosophy, Fall 2019, Tues. 4:30-7:15 pm

The schedule is mutable and is subject to change with fair notice. The instructor will communicate any changes through the Canvas site, through email, or both.

Course Schedule

Date	Topics	Readings/Activities	Assignments Due
8/27	Course Introduction, and Personal Introductions	Assigning discussion leaders.	
9/3	Traditional Ecological Knowledge	Mann "Great Law of Peace" Chief Seattle "Oration 1854" Winona LaDuke	Reaction 1
9/10	Roots of Environmentalism	Marsh 71-80 Thoreau 1-2; 26-36	Reaction 2
9/17	Preservation vs. Conservation	Muir 84-85; 104-112 Pinchot 172-180	Reaction 3
9/24	Ecology and the Early Environmental Movement	Carson 365-376 Abbey 413-433	Reaction 4
10/1	The Tragedy of the Commons and the Population Bomb!	Hardin 438-450; Ehrlich 434-437	Reaction 5
10/8	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
10/15	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
10/22	Biocentrism	Quinn - Ishmael	Reaction 8
W 10/29	<i>Ishael Quiz --- Online --- No Class Meeting</i>		

Date	Topics	Readings/Activities	Assignments Due
11/5	Deep Ecology	Naess and Sessions "On Depth Ecology"	Reaction 9 <i>Selected</i>
11/12	Current Directions	Pope Francis "Encyclical" Evo Morales "Letter on Climate Change." Carter "Science and Trump"	Reaction 10
11/19	Environmental Philosophy Presentations		<i>Written Environmental Philosophies Due</i>
11/26	Environmental Philosophy Presentations		
12/3	Final Exam!		

