

**San José State University**  
**College of Social Sciences / Environmental Studies Department**  
**ENVS 150, Intro. to Environmental Thought and Philosophy Fall 2019**

**Instructor:** Dr. Will Russell  
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**Email:** will.russell@sjsu.edu  
**Class Time:** Monday 4:30-7:15  
**Classroom:** DMH 357  
**Office Hours:** Monday 1:30-2:30 or by apt.  
**Library Liaison:** Peggy Cabrera  
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### **Course Description**

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 activism.

### **Course Overview and Organization**

**This section of ENVS 150 will be organized as an online hybrid course. We will meet one day a week in class, but be prepared for significant work outside of class as well.**

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.

### **Department Program Learning Outcomes**

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**

- 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.

### **Dropping and Adding**

You are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. Information on add/drops is available at <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-298.html>. Late drop information is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/policies/latedrops>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes.

### **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.

### ***Presentations***

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

### ***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 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:

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

## **University Policies**

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/>

### **Dropping and Adding**

*Drop Deadline:* Monday, February 5, is the last day to drop a class without a “W” grade.

*Add Deadline:* Monday, February 12, is the last day to add a course & Register Late.

### **Academic integrity**

**Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act.**

**ENVS 150 / Environmental Thought - Course Schedule  
Fall 2019**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Assignments Due</b>
8/26	Course Introduction, and Personal Introductions		
9/2	<i>Labor Day --- No Class</i>		
9/9	Traditional Ecological Knowledge	Mann "Great Law of Peace" Chief Seattle "Oration 1854" Winona LaDuke	Reaction 1
9/16	Roots of Environmentalism	Marsh 71-80 Thoreau 1-2; 26-36	Reaction 2
9/23	Preservation vs. Conservation	Muir 84-85; 104-112 Pinchot 172-180	Reaction 3
9/30	Ecology and the Early Environmental Movement	Carson 365-376 Abbey 413-433	Reaction 4
10/7	The Tragedy of the Commons and the Population Bomb!	Hardin 438-450; Ehrlich 434-437	Reaction 5
10/14	Environmental Justice	Chavez 690-695 <i>You Tube: Dolores Huerta</i> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YzMepBzH3pM">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YzMepBzH3pM</a> <i>You Tube: Mustafa Ali:</i> <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dtC4oFV5Ejo">www.youtube.com/watch?v=dtC4oFV5Ejo</a>	Reaction 6
10/21	EcoFeminism	Vandana Shiva "Women in Nature." Judi Bari "The Feminization of Earth First!" <i>You Tube: Who Bombed Judi Bari:</i> <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HWApxvSjMKY">www.youtube.com/watch?v=HWApxvSjMKY</a>	Reaction 7
10/28	Biocentrism	Quinn - Ishmael	Reaction 8
<i>W</i> 10/30	<i>Ishael Quiz --- Online --- No Class Meeting</i>		
11/4	Deep Ecology	Naess and Sessions "On Depth Ecology"	Reaction 9 <i>Selected</i>
11/11	<i>Veteran's Day --- No Class</i>		

11/18	Current Directions	Pope Francis "Encyclical" Evo Morales "Letter on Climate Change." Carter "Science and Trump"	Reaction 10
11/25	Environmental Philosophy Presentations		
12/2	Environmental Philosophy Presentations		<i>Written Environmental Philosophies Due</i>
12/9	Final Exam!		