San José State University
Department of Environmental Studies
ENVS 150-02, Introduction to Environmental Thought, Spring '19

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Emily Moffitt
Office Location:	Washington Square Hall (WSQ) 216G
Telephone:	(484) 354-3983
Email:	emily.moffitt@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Mondays, 3:30 – 4:30 PM or by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Mondays, 4:30 PM – 7:15 PM
Classroom:	Clark Building (CL - 224)
Prerequisites:	Passing WST score
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	SJSU Studies Area S (Self, Society & Equality in the U.S)
Library Liaison	Peggy Cabrera (peggy.cabrera@sjsu.edu)

Course Description

An introduction to significant works in the field of environmental studies in the United States. Topics covered include preservation, conservation, biocentrism, environmental justice, eco-feminism, deep ecology, and environmental activism.

Course Overview

This course is designed to provide upper division students with the opportunity to investigate their personal environmental philosophy within a cultural and historic context. The evolution of our society has a direct and profound influence on our attitudes toward Nature. Similarly, dysfunction in our relationship with Nature, as a society, is tied to inequities in our interactions with each other (sexism, racism, and economic stratification). The purpose of this course is to create a framework for a dialog on these topics that will help students to develop tools for addressing the social structures and inequalities that have led us to the brink of environmental collapse.

Learning Outcomes

SJSU Studies Area S (Self, Society & Equality in the U.S)

1. SLO 1 - Students will be able to describe how identities (i.e. religious, gender, ethnic, racial, class, sexual orientation, disability, and/or age) are shaped by cultural and societal influences within contexts of equality and inequality.

2. SLO 2 - Students will be able to describe historical, social, political, and economic processes producing diversity, equality, and structured inequalities in the U.S.
3. SLO 3 - Students will be able to describe social actions that have led to greater equality and social justice in the U.S. (i.e. religious, gender, ethnic, racial, class, sexual orientation, disability, and/or age).
4. SLO 4 - Students will be able to recognize and appreciate constructive interactions between people from different cultural, racial, and ethnic groups within the U.S.

Department Student Learning Objectives (SLO)

1. SLO 1 - Qualitative Environmental Literacy: Students are able to write a logical analytical paper using good writing style and construction supported by appropriate research.
2. SLO 2 - 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

Textbook

McKibben, Bill (Editor). 2008. American Earth: Environmental Writing Since Thoreau. Library of America, New York, NY. ***Available at SJSU Spartan Bookshop or Amazon.***

Supplemental Materials 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 at sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf.

NOTE that University policy F69-24 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.

Reactions

Every class day you will 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. In addition, each student must post a ***minimum*** of two 'Responses' to other students' posted Reactions. The Reaction and Responses must be posted by the day of class.

Each reaction is worth 10 points. Grades for the reactions are based on if the student's submission:

Reaction Content (5 points)

- Answered all of the Reaction questions asked (1.5 points)
- Included direct quotes from the reading with a page citation (i.e. a page number) (1 point)
- Included integrated/compelling topics from outside resources
    - Relating the reaction to a personal topic (0.25 points)
    - Relating the reaction to an outside resource, i.e. something in the news, or another book/reading (0.75 points)
- Had minimal grammatic errors (0.75 points)
- Was between 500-600 words (0.75 points)

Responses to classmates Reactions (5 points)

- Minimum of two responses (1 point); over two responses (2 points)
- Minimal grammatic errors (1 point)
- Thoughtful, integrated, compelling; posed questions to classmates to generate conversation (2 points)

Personal Environmental Philosophy Presentation

Each student will formally present a personal environmental philosophy in class (5-10 minutes). The philosophy should include your personal environmental perspective in direct reference to ALL of the philosophies 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?"

You will receive more details on the Environmental Philosophy assignment and a grading rubric later in the semester.

In-Class Assignments

In class activities will be conducted throughout the semester. In most cases an assignment (written or otherwise) will accompany this activity. Participation in these activities is essential, and successful completion of them will constitute a significant portion of the total class grade. *If you are unable to make a class, please email the instructor ahead of time to make up the in-class activity.*

Midterm Exam

The midterm exam will cover all course material up until the day of the exam including: readings and module content, and in-class discussions and assignments. The exam will include short answer, multiple-choice, and essay style questions. No blue book or Scranton is necessary – you need only bring a pen or pencil, and a head full of knowledge. The Midterm Exam may be an online take - home exam.

Final Exam

The final exam will be comprehensive, and will include material from the entire semester. The exam will include short answer, multiple-choice, and essay style questions. No blue book or scantron necessary.

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.**

Note that "All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades." See University Policy F13-1 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf for more details.

Grading

Grading Rubric for Writing Assignments: See additional Reaction rubric above. An "A" paper will include all of the elements listed in the assignment in an integrated, compelling, and readable format with minimal grammatical and stylistic errors. A "B" paper will include all of the elements listed in the assignment, but may lack some integration and can include a few grammatical and stylistic errors. A "C" paper will include the essential elements listed in the assignment but might include significant stylistic and grammatical errors. A "D" paper may include some of the elements listed in the assignment but will may have serious issues with regard to style, organization, and grammar. "F" papers will be those where the basic elements of the assignment were not met.

Course Grade: Your grade in this course will be based on your written work, presentations, and your participation in online as well as in-class discussions.

Assignment	**Percent of Grade**
Reaction and Responses	20
In-class Assignments	20
Environmental Philosophy	20
Midterm Exam	20
Final Exam	20
TOTAL	*100*

Points Acquired	**Letter Grade**
980-100	A+
900-979	A
880-899	B+
800-879	B
780-799	C+
700-779	C
680-699	D+

600-679	D
0-600	F

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 and smart 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 at sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf. More detailed information on a variety of related topics is available in the SJSU catalog, 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 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 at sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars.

Last Day to Drop: February 5, 2019
Last Day to Add (without additional fees): February 12, 2019

The Late Drop 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 at sjsu.edu/advising.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

University Policy S12-7, 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 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 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 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 150, Introduction to Environmental Thought, Spring 2019
Course Schedule

Date	Topics	Readings	Assignments Due
1/28	Introductions The history of the Earth		
2/4	Traditional Ecological Knowledge	(Canvas) Black Elk; Chief Seattle; 1491 – Mann	Reaction 1
2/11	Roots of Environmentalism	(McKibben) Thoreau 1-2 & 26-36; Marsh 71-80	Reaction 2
2/18	***No in person class***		
2/25	Preservation v. Conservation	(McKibben) Muir 84-85 & 104-112; Pinchot 172-180	Reaction 3
3/4	Ecology and the Early Environmental Movement	(McKibben) Carson 365-376; Abbey 413-433	Reaction 4
3/11	The Tragedy of the Commons and the Population Bomb!	(McKibben) Hardin 438-450; Ehrlich 434-437	Reaction 5
3/18	Environmental Justice	(McKibben) Chavez 690-695; Anthony and Soule 849-854	Reaction 6
3/25	EcoFeminism	(Canvas) Bari- Timber Wars; Shiva- Staying Alive	Reaction 7
4/1	***No Class – Cesar Chavez Day (Observed)***		
4/8	Deep Ecology	(Canvas) Naess and Sessions- Basic Principles of Deep Ecology	Reaction 8 **Take Home Midterm!**
4/15	Land Ethic and Biophilia	(McKibben) Leopold 276-296 (Canvas) Wilson- The Conservation Ethic	Reaction 9
4/22	Direct Action and Civil Disobedience	(McKibben) Hill 907-919 (Canvas) Thoreau -Civil Disobedience; Chipko	Reaction 10
4/29	Environmentalism Now!	(Canvas) Evo Morales - Climate Change Letter; Encyclical	Reaction 11
5/6	*Environmental Philosophy Presentations*		
5/13	*Environmental Philosophy Presentations* Final Exam Review ***Last day of class***		*Environmental Philosophy Essay*
5/17	**Final Exam --- In Person (2:45 – 5:00 pm)**		