

San José State University
Department of Geography & Global Studies
GEOG 1, Geography of the Natural Environment, Section 01, Spring, 2020

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Joe Hasty
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Office Hours:	T/TH 1:15pm-2:15pm
Class Days/Time:	T/TH 12:00pm-1:15pm
Classroom:	CL 224
Prerequisites:	None
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	B1
Course Fees:	None

Course Format

This course meets in person twice weekly on campus and consists of lecture and related activities.

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, and grades can be found on the Canvas learning management system course website: <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/canvas/>.

Course Description

Atmospheric, biologic and geologic processes that create the natural environments of the world. Discovery of local, regional and global patterns in the location and distribution of environmental phenomena, and the human modifications of natural environments.

Learning Outcomes and Course Goals

GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

Objective 1: use the methods of science and knowledge derived from current scientific inquiry in life or physical science to question existing explanations.

Assignment application: Out of class essay assignments and in-class exam questions (short answer and multiple choice).

Objective 2: demonstrate ways in which science influences and is influenced by complex societies, including political and moral issues.

Assignment application: Out of class essay assignments and in-class exam questions (short answer and multiple choice).

Objective 3: recognize methods of science, in which quantitative, analytical reasoning techniques are used.

Assignment application: Out of class essay assignments and in-class exam questions (short answer and multiple choice).

Required Texts/Readings

Title: McKnight's Physical Geography: A Landscape Appreciation

Author: Darrel Hess

ISBN-13: 978-0134195421

Edition: 12th

Copyright: 2017

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 <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

Grading Policy

Assignments (15)	300 points
Map Quizzes (6)	200 points
Midterm Exam	200 points
Final Exam (not cumulative)	200 points
Class Participation	100 points
Research Assignments (2) - OPTIONAL	100 points
Total points available	1100 points
Total course points	1000 points

Percentage	Total Points	Letter Grade
95-100%	950-500	A
90-94%	900- 949	A-
87-89 %	870-899	B+
83-86%	830-869	B
80-82%	800-829	B-
77-79 %	770-799	C+
73-76%	730-769	C
70-72%	700-729	C-
65-69%	650-699	D+
60-64%	600-649	D
Less than 60 %	Less than 600	F

Classroom Protocol

Attendance: Roll will be taken most days and will factor into participation grade. Habitual absences may result in expulsion from the course.

Tardiness: Please arrive on time and stay until dismissed. This will factor into participation points.

Cell Phone: Please silence and stow cell phones during class. Phone usage during class will result in expulsion from class session and will be reflected in class participation points.

Laptop: Laptops are acceptable during class TO TAKE NOTES ONLY. Any other use will result in expulsion from the class session and will be reflected in class participation points.

Class Interaction: Please participate in classroom discussions with relevant, thoughtful, and respectful perspectives. This will be reflected in class participation points.

Assignments

There will be 15 unit assignments. They are worth 20 points each (300 points total). They will vary in format, but will primarily consist of short essay questions. All submissions will be on Canvas unless otherwise noted. Late work will be accepted for ½ credit.

Map Quizzes

There will be 5 map quizzes. They are worth 40 points each (200 points total). They will consist of properly locating geographic locations in various world regions. Make-ups will only be given under extenuating circumstances and may vary in format.

Midterm Exam

There will be one midterm exam. It will be worth 200 points (20%) of your final grade and will occur roughly ½ of the way through the semester. The format will include true/false, multiple choice, and short answer questions. The short answer questions will be distributed one week prior to the exam. Make-ups will only be given under extenuating circumstances and may vary in format.

Final Exam

The final exam is worth 20% of your final grade. It will follow the same format as the midterm exam and will not be cumulative. It will only cover the second half of the course. There are no make-ups.

Research Assignments

There will be two optional research projects. One will be due before the midterm exam and the other will be due before the final exam. These will typically require a variety of steps including (1) data gathering, (2) data visualization, (3) data interpretation, and (4) final analysis. These are designed to give students who want to push themselves further an opportunity to do so. This motivation can come from a variety of reasons including a drive to earn an excellent grade, poor performance quizzes or exams, or the desire to explore more about the content of the course or interest in the major. Late assignments will be accepted for ½ credit.

Class Participation:

Class participation is worth 100 points (10%) of your final grade will be evaluated on several criteria. These include attendance, class discussions, group work, and any other class activities.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide 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/>

GEOG 1 / Geography of the Physical Environment

Spring, 2020, Course Schedule

This schedule is subject to change with fair notice.

Course Schedule

Week #	Dates (T/TH)	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	1/23	Intro and Syllabus
2	1/28 & 1/30	Introduction to Geography - Reading: Hess, Chapter 1
3	2/4 & 2/6	Portraying the Earth - Reading: Hess, Chapter 2 Map Quiz #1 (North America) – Thursday
4	2/11 & 2/13	Weather and Climate I - Reading: Hess, Chapter 3 and 4 Map Quiz #2 (South America) - Thursday
5	2/18 & 2/20	Weather and Climate II - Reading: Hess, Chapter 5 Map Quiz #3 (Europe) – Thursday
6	2/25 & 2/27	Weather and Climate III- Reading: Hess, Chapter 6 Map Quiz #4 (Africa) – Thursday
7	3/3 & 3/5	Weather and Climate IV- Reading: Hess, Chapter 7 and 8 Map Quiz #5 (Asia) – Thursday
8	3/10 & 3/12	Discussion and Review – Tuesday (Research Assignment #1 Due 3/10) Midterm Exam – Thursday
9	3/17 & 3/19	The Hydrosphere – Reading: Hess, Chapter 9
10	3/24 & 3/26	Intro to Landform Study - Reading: Hess, Chapter 13
	3/31 & 4/2	SRPING BREAK – NO CLASS
11	4/7 & 4/9	The Internal Process - Reading: Hess, Chapter 14
12	4/14 & 4/16	Fluvial Processes - Reading: Hess, Chapter 16
13	4/22 & 4/23	The Topography of Arid Lands – Reading, Hess, Chapter 18
14	4/28 & 4/30	Glacial Modifications of Terrain - Reading: Hess, Chapter 19
15	5/5 & 5/7	Coastal Processes and Terrain - Reading: Hess, Chapter 20 Discussion and Review (Research Assignment #2 Due 5/7)
16	5/13	Final Exam – 9:45am to 12:00pm