

San José State University
Department of Geography
GEOG 01, Geography of the Natural Environment, Spring 2020

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Eileen Peña
Office Location:	Washington Square Hall (WSQ) 111A
Email:	eileen.pena@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Tuesdays 3-4pm online and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Online
Classroom:	Online through Canvas https://sjsu.instructure.com/
Prerequisites:	None
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	B1 – Science, Physical Science

Course Format

Online

This course is an online-only course. No in-person class meetings are required. Access to a computer with a reliable Internet connection as well as a word processing program (such as MS Word) are required. The course is through Canvas learning management system. Information about Canvas, including links to log-in are here: <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/canvas/>

Course Description

This course covers atmospheric, biologic and geologic processes that create the natural environments of the world. We will cover local, regional and global patterns in the location and distribution of environmental phenomena, and the human modifications of natural environments. When you complete this course, you will better understand the interaction of the dynamic physical systems of the Earth, which directly and indirectly affect you.

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

- Our present understanding of meteorological, tectonic, and bio-geographic systems will be developed and tested in the class. This basic scientific knowledge will be applied to the various ecosystems of the world, in order to understand the physical and biological forces that shape them, how these ecosystems developed, and how they change over time.

GELO 2: *Demonstrate ways in which science influences and is influenced by complex societies, including political and moral issues.*

- Your learnings will cover ways in which we disturb physical processes, and ways in which we put ourselves at risk from the physical environment. These will also be tested in all exams, including your final exam.

GELO 3: *Recognize methods of science, in which quantitative, analytical reasoning techniques are used.*

- You will understand the scientific method, which is presented and evaluated in exams and applied within the class.
- The basic concepts and analytic reasoning that support them will be presented in learnings, including some that will be shown as simple experiments, and this knowledge will be tested in the exams. Such scientific methods, concepts and analytic reasoning will be part of all testing.

Required Texts/Materials

Textbook

No textbook is required. All materials will be available online at no cost to the student.

Other technology requirements / equipment / material

Access to a computer and reliable Internet source as well as a word processing program (such as Microsoft Word) are required.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Assignments including quizzes and exams will not be accepted late. Students must work ahead of the due dates to complete the work and allow for any potential issues at the last minute. It is suggested that student's have a readily available back-up computer and Internet source such as the library or a friend's computer to use in case theirs is not working.

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.

For more information see: [University Syllabus Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Assignments will not be accepted late. Students must work ahead of time to complete the assignment and allow for any potential issues at the last minute. It is suggested that student's have a readily available back-up computer and Internet source such as the library or a friend's computer to use in case theirs is not working.

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>.

Final Examination or Evaluation

The final exam will be online and based on course materials.

Grading Information

Introduction post	10 points
Midterm exam	100 points
Chapter quizzes (14 worth 10 points each)	140 points
Map Assignments (15 worth 10 points each)	150 points
Final Exam (not cumulative)	100 points
Total points available	500 points

10 Extra Credit points also possible – see Canvas for assignment details.

Determination of Grades

Final letter grades will be based on the grading scale below:

Total Points	Letter Grade
475-500	A
450- 474	A-
435-449	B+
415-434	B
400-414	B-
365-399	C+
335-364	C
300-334	C-
285-299	D+
250-284	D
Less than 250	F

This course must be passed with a C or better as a CSU graduation requirement.

Classroom Protocol

Generally, in an online course, there is much less room for undesirable classroom behavior (such as inappropriate cell phone use, etc.). However, mature and respectful behavior is still required in all communications such as discussion forums and other methods of communication – directed both to fellow classmates as well as the instructor. Disrespectful or inappropriate behavior will be handled first by the instructor and secondarily by the college, as necessary.

University Policies

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. To learn important campus information, view [University Policy S16-15](#) and SJSU current semester's [Policies and Procedures](#). 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 address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as the next step.

Course Requirements and Assignments

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Attendance and Participation

Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading. However, students are expected to attend all meetings for the courses in which they are enrolled, as they are responsible for material discussed therein, and active participation is frequently essential to ensure maximum benefit to all class members. In some cases, attendance is fundamental to course objectives; for example, students may be required to interact with others in the class. Attendance is the responsibility of the student. Participation may be used as a criterion for grading when the parameters and their evaluation are clearly defined in the course syllabus and the percentage of the overall grade is stated. The full policy language can be found at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S15-12.pdf>

Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays

[University Policy S14-7](#) states that San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the [Academic Calendars webpage](#). Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes ([Late Drop Information](#)).

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](#).

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

[University Policy S12-7](#), requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

- "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."
- It is suggested that the greensheet include the instructor's process for granting permission, whether in writing or orally and whether for the whole semester or on a class by class basis.
- In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.
- "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 F15-7](#) 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. Visit the [Student Conduct and Ethical Development](#) website for more information. Sharing course material (such as quiz questions and answers, etc.) with students in the course or in subsequent sections of the course is considered dishonesty and will be dealt with appropriately by the instructor and as necessary by the college.

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](#) requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Accessible Education Center](#) (AEC) to establish a record of their disability.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs and other resources for student use are available in:

- [Academic Success Center](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/> located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall
- [Academic Technology Computer Center](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/hd/> on the 1st floor of Clark Hall

- [Associated Students Computer Services Center](http://as.sjsu.edu/asccsc/) at <http://as.sjsu.edu/asccsc/> on the 2nd floor of the Student Union
- [Student Computing Services](http://library.sjsu.edu/student-computing-services/student-computing-services-center) at <http://library.sjsu.edu/student-computing-services/student-computing-services-center>
- [Computers at the Martin Luther King Library](http://library.sjsu.edu/reserve-studymeeting-room/computers-king-library) for public at large at <http://library.sjsu.edu/reserve-studymeeting-room/computers-king-library>
- Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college

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.

SJSU Peer Connections

Peer Connections' free tutoring and mentoring is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to inspire them to become independent learners. Peer Connections tutors are trained to provide content-based tutoring in many lower division courses (some upper division) as well as writing and study skills assistance. Small group and individual tutoring are available. Peer Connections mentors are trained to provide support and resources in navigating the college experience. This support includes assistance in learning strategies and techniques on how to be a successful student. Peer Connections has a learning commons, desktop computers, and success workshops on a wide variety of topics. For more information on services, hours, locations, or a list of current workshops, please visit [Peer Connections website](http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu) at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu> for more information.

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the [Writing Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook. (Note: You need to have a QR Reader to scan this code.)



SJSU Counseling and Psychological Services

The SJSU Counseling and Psychological Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Carlos in the new Student Wellness Center, Room 300B. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide confidential consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit [Counseling and Psychological Services website](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>

Geography 01 / Geography of the Natural Environment, Spring 2020, Course Schedule

Course Schedule subject to change with fair notice from instructor.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	1/23-1/26	Course and Student Introductions Introduction to Physical Geography <i>Intro post, quiz, map activity</i>
2	1/27-2/2	Portraying Earth <i>Quiz, map activity</i>
3	2/3-2/9	Introduction to the Atmosphere <i>Quiz, map activity</i>
4	2/10-2/16	Atmospheric Disturbances <i>Quiz, map activity</i>
5	2/17-2/23	Climate and Climate Change <i>Quiz, map activity</i>
6	2/24-3/1	The Hydrosphere (Water) <i>Quiz, map activity</i>
7	3/2-3/8	Terrestrial Flora and Fauna <i>Quiz, map activity</i>
8	3/9-3/15	The Internal Processes <i>Quiz, map activity</i>
9	3/16-3/22	Weathering and Mass Wasting <i>Quiz, map activity</i> Midterm Exam Online - Open Monday-Sunday (Closes Sunday 11:59pm)
10	3/23-3/29	Fluvial (River) Processes <i>Quiz, map activity</i>
12	3/30-4/5	<i>Spring Break - no coursework due</i>
13	4/6-4/12	Karst and Hydrothermal Processes <i>Quiz, map activity</i>
14	4/13-4/19	The Topography of Arid Lands <i>Quiz, map activity</i>
15	4/20-4/26	Glacial Modification of Terrain <i>Quiz, map activity</i>
16	4/27-5/3	Coastal Processes and Terrain <i>Quiz, map activity</i>
17	5/4-5/10	<i>Extra Credit Assignment Due (11:59pm)</i>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
18	5/11-5/17	Final Exam Online - Open Monday-Sunday (Closes Sunday 11:59pm)