

San José State University
College of Social Sciences / Environmental Studies Department
ENVS 150, Introduction to Environmental Thought and Philosophy
Fall 2024

Instructor: Dr. Will Russell
By Appointment

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Class Format Asynchronous Online



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 course will be taught entirely online using Canvas! Readings, discussions, and assignments will be required twice weekly. 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:

Students are able to write a logical analytical paper using good writing style and construction supported by appropriate research.

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: Environmental Writing Since Thoreau. Bill McKibben, Editor. Library of America. 2008.
- 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/raropsp>

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:

Assignment	% of Grade
Personal Introduction	10%
Reactions	20%
Topic Activities and Discussion	20%
Selected Reading Essay	10%
Environmental Philosophy	20%

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Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments Due
		Boarder Crisis (linked file) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dolores Huerta (linked file) • Mustafa Ali video (linked file) 	
10/10 Th	EJ cont.		Topic Activity (EJ)
10/15 T	Selected Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook 	<i>Selected Reading Posts Due</i>
10/22 T	EcoFeminism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vandana Shiva (linked file) • Judi Bari (linked file) 	Reaction 8
10/24 Th	EcoFeminism, cont.		Topic Activity (EcoFeminism)
10/29 T	Deep Ecology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naess and Sessions (linked file) 	Reaction 9
10/31 Th	Deep Eco, cont.		Topic Activity (Deep Eco)