

San José State University

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Ada E. Márquez
Office Location:	WSQ Hall 111E
Telephone Main Office:	(408) 924-5450
Email:	ada.marquez@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	(Zoom) Wednesdays from 12:00 noon to 1:100 pm and by appointment
Lecture Day/Time:	Mondays 4:30 PM-7:15 PM (In-Person)
Classroom:	Clark Building Room 243
Lab/Activity 2 hours/week:	On-Line and Off-campus Activities
Prerequisites:	EnvS 01 and EnvS 124 Environmental Law, or instructor consent

Course Description

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Through a combination of lecture, field work, and project work, we will learn to conduct introductory assessments of the impacts of real projects on air quality, land use, environmental health and equity, and wildlife.

Impact assessment requires careful study of information from multiple disciplines and covers many environmental resources. Analyzing and producing environmental assessment documents requires significant group work, perseverance, creativity, and a lot of work. Remember, this is a four-unit course! Buckle your seatbelts (put on your bike helmets) for a challenging but exhilarating ride.

Grading: Letter Graded

Course Format: In-Person Lecture Course *and* Off Campus Technology Intensive, Canvas Online

The lecture portion is in-person, and the curriculum is posted via Canvas. The Lab Activity will combine in-person field trips, participation in government meetings, and online activities. Students must have reliable internet connectivity and technology such as a computer to access the Zoom government meetings and online tutorials.

Students can borrow laptops, iPads, and other technology at no charge from SJSU [Student Computing Services | Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library \(sjsu.edu\)](#). For student study and workspace with wifi and outlets, SJSU has numerous locations on campus [Student Study and Workspace Resources | Learn Anywhere \(sjsu.edu\)](#).

Students need the following:

- ⟨ Free access to software [Microsoft Office 365 | Information Technology \(sjsu.edu\)](#) You can access the Office 365 Portal with your SJSU email address and SJSUOne password.
- ⟨ Please have Adobe software installed [Adobe Creative Cloud for Students | eCampus \(sjsu.edu\)](#)
- ⟨ Internet connectivity or Wi-Fi, and technology such as a computer/laptop to access Zoom and Canvas
- ⟨ Ensure your device meets Zoom system requirements [System requirements for Windows, macOS, and Linux – Zoom Help Center](#)
- ⟨ Access to Canvas Learning Management system which is located at <https://sjsu.instructure.com/>

You are plagiarizing or cheating if you:

For any work completed in this course, use any type of Artificial Intelligence (AI) website or software.
For written work, copy anything from a book, article, or website and add or paste it into your paper without using quotation marks and/or without providing the full reference for the quotation, including page number.

For written work, summarize/paraphrase in your own words ideas you got from a book, article, or the web without providing the full reference for the source (including page number in the humanities).

For an oral presentation, copy anything from a book, article, or website and present it orally as if it were your own words. You must summarize and paraphrase in your own words and bring a list of references in case the professor asks to see it.

Use visuals or graphs you got from a book, article, or website without providing the full reference for the picture or table.

Recycle a paper you wrote for another class.

Copy from a classmate or use someone else's work as if it were your own.

Use technology or smuggle in documents to obtain or check information in an exam situation.

In writing a paper, it is always better to include too many references than not enough. When in doubt, always err on the side of caution. If you have any questions or uncertainty about what is or is not cheating, it is your responsibility to ask your instructor.

AI Tool Use

Generative artificial intelligence tools—software that creates new text, images, computer code, audio, video, and other content—have become widely available. Well-known examples include ChatGPT for text and DALL•E for images.

ONLY EXCEPTION: Grammarly. <https://www.grammarly.com/>. Students must include Grammarly in their sources and references.

This policy governs all such tools, including those released during our semester together. You may not use generative AI tools on assignments in this course. If you choose to use generative AI tools in violation of this policy (or in another class that permits them), please remember that they are typically trained on limited datasets that may be outdated. Additionally, generative **AI datasets are trained on pre-existing material, including copyrighted material; therefore, relying on a generative AI tool may result in plagiarism or copyright violations.**

Finally, keep in mind that the goal of generative AI tools is to produce content that seems to have been produced by a human, not to produce accurate or reliable content; therefore, relying on a generative AI tool may result in your submission of inaccurate content. It is your responsibility—not the tool's—to ensure the quality, integrity, and accuracy of the work you submit in any college course. As specified elsewhere in the syllabus, this course will require electronic submission of essays, papers, or other written projects through the originality assessment service Turnitin. Turnitin will also attempt to detect AI-generated text. Moreover, I will ask the student to complete a similar assignment in class to verify authenticity. If you use generative AI tools to complete assignments in this course in ways that I have not explicitly authorized, I will apply the Code of

plagiarism or fabrication of data. Depending on the specific circumstances, a first offense academic integrity violation related to misuse of generative AI could range anywhere from a warning to failing the course. Please act with integrity, for the sake of both your personal character and your academic record.

Portions of this policy were created using the non-AI [“Generative AI Syllabus Statement Tool \(Seaver College\)”](#).

4. Readings: Please expect to attend all lectures/discussions and complete all readings *before* the class period. Completing the assigned readings will significantly improve your understanding of CEQA and other environmental laws. ENVS 185 is a fast-paced course, and lecture time cannot cover everything.
5. Deliverables (writing assignments) and participation: During lectures, I will ask questions about the course materials. These questions will help determine whether I have conveyed the information adequately in the lecture and whether you are keeping up with and understanding reading assignments. They will provide direct feedback about what you are learning through your group’s lab/service assignment. In addition, we will complete in-class writing analysis assignments to strengthen your EIA skills. Be aware that we will also complete group work during our class. In-class deliverables cannot be made up unless you are ill or have other emergencies.
6. Draft documents: In real impact assessments, the drafting process and public presentation are taken very seriously. First drafts **are worth more than final drafts**.
7. Late Deliverables Policy: Everyone is experiencing challenges, and to pro2 Tmsi] TJETQq0.00000912 0 612 792 reW* nBT/E

Grading Information

The course grade will be determined based on a total of 1000 possible points. Accumulated points that fall within the grade scale below determine your semester grade.

<i>Grade</i>	
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Students are not required to have their camera on during the Zoom office hours, but I strongly encourage your appearance on-screen. Students have permission to use an appropriate virtual background. If you have any concerns, please notify me as soon as possible for accommodations.

Additional Information

Dropping and Adding Classes

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop. 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 Drops and Semester](#)

This schedule is subject to change with fair notice.

Week/ Module	Date	Lecture Topics	Readings	Lecture Deliverables	(1 unit) Activity
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Week/ Module	Date	Lecture Topics	Readings	Lecture Deliverables	(1 unit) Activity
			 1 Introduction of DEIR  2 Project Description of DEIR		
5	2/24	CEQA Resource Area: Biological Resources Analysis (Must bring a laptop to class)	Downtown West Mixed-Use Plan EIR (Google Project) City of San José (sanjoseca.gov) READ 3.02 Biological Resources AEP 2024 CEQA Statute & Guidelines §15070-15075	DUE 9/18: INDIVIDUAL DELIVERABLE Appendix G (Initial Study) Page 1 and Draft Project Description	Government Meeting (2 hours/week; Per your individual schedule) Biogeographic Data Branch Tutorials and Training (ca.gov) CNDDDB Overview (Video - 32 CNDDDB Maps and Data (ca.gov)
6	3/3	CEQA Resource Area: Land use and Planning	Downtown West Mixed-Use Plan EIR (Google Project) City of San Jose (sanjoseca.gov) 3.09 Land Use General Plan Guidelines and Technical Advisories - Office of Planning and Research then click on A Vision for Long-Range Planning	WORK on INDIVIDUAL DELIVERABLE Per CEQA Appendix G Environmental Checklist: Draft Initial Study Analyses Due: 3/3	Government Meeting (2 hours/week; Per your individual schedule)
7	3/10	CEQA Resource Area: Air Quality Analysis	Downtown West Mixed-Use Plan EIR (Google Project) City of San Jose (sanjoseca.gov) 3.00 Environmental Setting Impacts and Mitigation Intro of DEIR  3.01 Air Quality	Márquez returns Draft Appendix G-Initial Study Analyses	Government Meeting (2 hours/week; Per your individual schedule)
8	3/17	CEQA Resource Area: Choose Topic- Guest Speaker	CEQA Topic Papers (ceqaportal.org) Mitigation Measures	Due 3/17 Final Draft Appendix	Environmental Fieldwork Check schedule

Week/ Module	Date	Lecture Topics	Readings	Lecture Deliverables	(1 unit) Activity
		Archaeological Resources Peer-review deliverable due during class	Commission (Laws, Local Ordinances & Codes) http://nahc.ca.gov/codes/ Downtown West Mixed-Use Plan EIR (Google Project) City of San Jose (sanjoseca.gov) 3.03 Cultural Resources	Individual Initial Study Sections Per CEQA Appendix G Environmental Checklist	Check schedule
13	4/28	Márquez- Meetings with Each Team Progress Initial Study	CEQA Topic Papers (ceqaportal.org) Alternatives	Due: 4/28 Draft Individual Team Initial Study Sections Per CEQA Appendix G Environmental Checklist	Environmental Fieldwork Check schedule
14	5/5	CEQA: Public Review and Comments New Deliverable Team Presentation Instructions	General Plan Guidelines and Technical Advisories - Office of Planning and Research , Click on Community Engagement and Outreach	Continue-Team Individual Sections	Environmental Fieldwork Check schedule

Final Exam

Monday, May 19 5:30-7:30 PM

Lecture Deliverables: Team Initial Study and In-Class Team Presentation

Lab Activity: Government Meetings Briefs' Report and Environmental Fieldwork