

San José State University
 Department of Environmental Studies
 ENVS 01 (CRN 27769)
 Analyzing Environmental Issues
 Spring 2023

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Cristina Siegel
Office Location:	WSQ 111B
Email:	cristina.siegel@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	In person: M 1:00-12:00pm & 1:30-2:30 or by appointment Mon-Wed
Class Days/Time:	SEC 01: M/W 9:00-10:15am, Dudley Moorhead Hall (DMH), Rm 164
GE Category:	A3: Critical Thinking and Writing

Course Description

There is a 4-credit course in the Environmental Studies program that focuses on analyzing environmental issues and promoting sustainability. The course is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to understand the complex environmental challenges facing our world and to develop effective solutions. The course is required for students pursuing a degree in Environmental Studies and is also a valuable elective for students in other disciplines. The course is taught in a lecture format and includes a variety of activities, including readings, discussions, and assignments. The course is designed to be both challenging and rewarding, and it provides a unique opportunity for students to explore the intersection of science, policy, and activism. The course is also a great way to develop critical thinking and writing skills, which are essential for success in any field. The course is a required component of the Environmental Studies program and is a key part of the curriculum. The course is designed to be both challenging and rewarding, and it provides a unique opportunity for students to explore the intersection of science, policy, and activism. The course is also a great way to develop critical thinking and writing skills, which are essential for success in any field.

In this course, students apply critical thinking methods to a wide array of environmental topics in order to develop meaningful and effective sustainability solutions. Readings, discussions, and assignments will require students to analyze the scientific research, activism, and policy action that communities in the U.S. and around the world are taking to promote environmental sustainability and justice.

Catalog description: How are humans affecting the earth's environment and what can we do about it? Discover the scientific, technical, behavioral, and social causes of environmental challenges and develop critical thinking skills for determining reliable paths to creating a more sustainable future.

Course Format

This course is taught using a range of modes, including in-person, online, and hybrid. Students are expected to understand the requirements for the course based on its teaching mode. Specifically, students will be required to attend all class meetings or keep pace with the course. Discussion and debate are important elements of the class, and students must be prepared for these interactive, hands-on activities. Reading all assigned materials before class time will help to advance our discussions. Exam and quiz materials will come primarily from the textbook and lectures.

Class discussions will be extended beyond our in-class conversations through interaction on Piazza – a discussion modality available to our class and found in the Canvas menu for our class. Participation is required.

discussions and account for a sizable portion of your grade.

In this course, you will also complete at least 6,000 words of writing distributed among the assignments as shown in this syllabus.

GE Learning Outcomes (GELOs) (with relevant assignments).

This is a GE A3-Critical Thinking and Writing course. Upon successful completion of this GE course, students will be able to:

1. Locate and evaluate sources, through library research, and integrate research through appropriate citation and quotation. (Debate & defend, critical thinking essay, research paper)
2. Present effective arguments that use a full range of legitimate rhetorical and logical strategies to articulate and explain their positions on complex issues in dialogue with other points of view. (Debate & defends (In class, Packback), critical thinking essay)
3. Effectively locate, interpret, evaluate, and synthesize evidence in a comprehensive way in support of one's ideas. (Debate & defend, critical thinking essay)
4. Identify and critically evaluate the assumptions and the context of an argument. (Debate & Defend topics; critical thinking essay; research paper)
5. Effectively distinguish and convey inductive and deductive patterns as appropriate, sequencing arguments and evidence logically to draw valid conclusions and articulate related outcomes (implications and consequences). (Debate & defend; research paper, critical thinking essay)

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs) (with relevant assignments):

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Employ credible information sources and information to evaluate environmental issues and formulate effective sustainability solutions. (Debate & defend topics, critical thinking essays, research project)
2. Describe the economics, political, and social processes that have resulted in the environmental injustice and degradation of the natural world. (Debate & defend topics, exams, critical thinking essays) and Demonstrate understanding of valid scientific information
3. Demonstrate understanding of valid scientific information

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook and Online Discussion System

Miller, G. Living in the Environment 20th edition.

This book is available at the SJSU Bookstore
It is also available for rent at [Amazon Text](#) for

So, you may ask yourself where the line is drawn between an assistive tool that uses AI machine learning and NLP-Natural Language Processing like Grammarly Packback (which is 100% approved for usage) and an AI content creation engine like OpenAI (which is not approved for use in our class). The best way I can describe the difference would be to use the analogy of building a house. Whether you have the best hammer or the cheapest, if you are hammering the nails into the wood itself, you can say to have built the house yourself. However, if you just gave a work crew the address and some general guidelines and then left, you can't claim to be a house builder. Grammarly is a tool, like having a really nice hammer. OpenAI (Jasper, ChatGPT, GPT-3, GPT-4, etc) is leaving a work crew with just some basic guidelines and an address while you're on the other side of town having lunch.

In our class, the process is part of the point. The process of researching and writing with low stakes now will better equip you to navigate higher-stakes, more complex problems in the future.

Whether a paid ghostwriter or an AI, using any person or service to create work for you that you submit for credit as if it were your own goes against our academic integrity policy. Additionally, ensure you feel confident in understanding the [SJSU Academic Integrity Policy](#) and please let me know if any questions come up!

Like the calculator, AI is here to stay. It will just be up to us as ethical members of the academic community to discern how, when, and where it's appropriate to use."

Online Citation Resources

For this class, you will be using the Chicago Turabian. Here is a link to a useful citation guide:

<https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/turabian/turabian-author-citation-quick-guide.html>

Classroom as Community

It is

participate in inclass

Grading Information

Your grade will be based on your exams, quizzes, assignments, and class participation. Total points possible may change based on progress of the semester.

Grading Overview and Assessment of Learning Objectives (last updated 11/19/2019) (L7-595) (WTT/5-14-18) (S1089) Assignment