

# San José State University

## Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Ada E. Márquez  
Office Location: On-line  
Telephone Main Office: (408) 924-5450  
Email: ada.marquez@sjsu.edu  
Office Hours: Zoom-Thursdays 12:00 p.m. noon to 1:00 p.m.  
Class Days/Time: Tuesday/Thursday 10:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
Classroom: Fully Online Synchronous via Zoom  
GE/SJSU Studies Category: Satisfies D1 : Social Sciences

## Course Description

What effects are human activities having on the natural environment and our quality of life? We will analyze the technical and social causes of environmental degradation, environmental,

Access to Canvas Learning Management system which is located at <https://sjsu.instructure.com/>

- [Canvas Student Resources | eCampus \(sjsu.edu\)](#)

Free access to software [Software Installation Instructions | Information Technology \(sjsu.edu\)](#)

- Please have Adobe software installed [Adobe Creative Cloud for Students | eCampus \(sjsu.edu\)](#)
- Microsoft Office Suite and/or the Google Apps "G-Suite" (Google Docs, Sheets, etc.).  
Visit [Microsoft Office 365 Portal](#). You can access the Office 365 Portal with your SJSU email

## **Texts/Readings**

**Paper 1 (125 points): The Science vs. Pseudoscience vs. Inaccurate Media** will apply critical thinking and analytical techniques to evaluate the credibility of on-line articles for a current controversial scientific environmental issue.

**Paper 2 (125 points): The Environmental Justice (EJ) Policy Brief** is a concise argument summarizing the issue and solutions to a current environment issue in a disproportionately impacted community, city, or country.

**Paper 3 (150 points): The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Concept Paper** will analyze the environmental impacts of a project, government policy, or other types of government decisions and provide recommendations for sustainability strategies. Students will share their work by creating a web page via Adobe Spark. No prior experience creating web pages is required; the instructor will provide guidance. SJSU provides free access to [Adobe Creative Cloud for Students | eCampus \(sjsu.edu\)](#) or use [Make Images, Videos and Web Stories for Free in Minutes | Adobe Spark](#)

4. **Two Exams (midterm and the final exam) (400 points):** The midterm exam and the final exam are each worth 200 points. The exams will include multiple choices questions, short answer questions, and short essay questions. Each exam will cover lectures, in-class discussions, activities, readings, and videos. The final exam is not comprehensive.
5. **Extra Credit Opportunities- 2 total allowed (30 points each, 60 points maximum)**

#### [University Policy S16-9,](#)

“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.”

#### **Academic Integrity Policy**

Originality and honesty: It is appropriate to cite others’ work extensively, with attribution. **It is never**

**they were your own.** If you have any questions about appropriate citation, please talk to me personally or email me a note. Misuse of written material can result in course failure. If you need help or have any questions, contact the instructor. [University Academic Integrity Policy F15-7 \[pdf\]](#) [Student Conduct and Ethical Development](#)

#### **Late Assignment Policy**

Written papers turned in the following day of the posted due date will receive a 10% grade reduction. Those turned in the day after that will lose another 10%. Papers later than that will not be accepted. Make-up exams will be considered for legitimate circumstances, when arranged in advance, or with a doctor’s memo.

#### **Zoom Office Visits**

We are experiencing ongoing changes with uncertainties, and communication with the instructor is important. Please do not wait for an insurmountable problem before considering an office visit. If you would like to discuss an issue, an assignment, or a personal problem, please speak to me during on-line office hours.

#### **Grading Information**

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



University policy ([S12-7](#))

**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. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit the Counseling and Psychological Services website at [sjsu.edu/counseling](https://sjsu.edu/counseling).

**SJSU Cares** Students experiencing challenges meeting their basic needs including, but not limited to, access to food, shelter, and a safe space are encouraged to contact [SJSU Cares](#). Students who feel that their class performance may be affected by these challenges are encouraged to notify their professors, if comfortable doing so. Faculty members may be able to provide flexibility within the course for students working with a case manager.

### **Land Acknowledgement**

San José State University and Surrounding Region  
Thámien Ancestral Muwekma Ohlone Territory

The San José State University community recognizes that the present-day Muwekma Ohlone Tribe, with an enrolled Bureau of Indian Affairs documented membership of over 550, is comprised of all of the known surviving American Indian lineages aboriginal to the San Francisco Bay region who trace their ancestry through the Missions Santa Clara, San José, and Dolores, during the advent of the Hispano-European empire into Alta California; and who are the successors and living members of the sovereign, historic, previously Federally Recognized Verona Band of Alameda County.

Furthermore, the San José State University community recognizes that the university is established within the Thámien Ohlone-speaking tribal ethnohistoric territory, which based upon the unratified federal treaties of 1851-1852, includes the unceded ancestral lands of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area. Some of the enrolled Muwekma lineages are descended from direct ancestors from the Thámien Ohlone tribal territory whose ancestors had affiliation with Mission Santa Clara.

The San José State University community also recognizes the importance of this land to the indigenous Muwekma Ohlone people of this region, and consistent with our principles of community and diversity strives to be good stewards on behalf of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe whose land we occupy.

This schedule is subject to change with fair notice which students will be notified via Canvas and in class. I will provide at least one week notice if I need to move the topics or readings. With the rapid changes of environmental and health events, flexibility and adaptability is important.

## Course Schedule

Week/ Module	Date	Topics	Textbook Readings	Assignments (Mini-Briefs due before class)
1	8/19	Introductions and Syllabus: What is Environmental Studies?		
2	8/24 and 8/26	Concepts of Sustainability Big issues facing us today? Urbanization and Sustainability Ecosystems: How do they work?	Chapter 1 Chapter 22	8/26 Mini-Brief
3	8/31 and 9/2	(CA and SF Bay Area) Climate and Biodiversity: Protect the trees please! Climate Change: Can humans adapt?	Chapter 7 Chapter 19	9/2 Mini-Brief
4	9/7 and 9/9	Environmental Studies (and Science) Writing and Research (APA style) Guest: Librarian Peggy Cabrera (9/7)	Chapter 19	<b>9/7 Provide Paper 1 Science vs. Pseudoscience</b> 9/9 Mini-Brief
5	9/14 and 9/16	(CA and SF Bay Area) Air Pollution: Is our air getting cleaner?	Chapter 18	9/16 Mini-Brief
6	9/21 and 9/23	Human Population Dynamics What is the planet's carrying capacity? Economics and Sustainability Reduce poverty to help the environment?	Chapter 6 Chapter 23	<b>Due 9/21 Paper 1 Draft In-Class Peer Review and Discussion</b> 9/23 Mini-Brief
7	9/28 and 9/30	Food Resources: Can we feed the world? (CA and SF Bay Area) Biodiversity and Evolution: Why are butterflies vanishing?	Chapter 12 Chapter 4	Mini-Brief <b>Due 9/28 Paper 1 Final Draft</b>
8	10/5 and 10/7	(CA and SF Bay Area) Biodiversity and Species Extinction: Where are the honeybees? Biodiversity and Saving Ecosystems: Did someone say more wildfires?	Chapter 9 Chapter 10	10/7 Mini-Brief
9	10/12 and 10/14	Curriculum catch-up and review Midterm 10/14 on Canvas (Modules 1 to 8)		



Week/ Module	Date	Topics	Textbook Readings	Assignments (Mini-Briefs due before class)
10	10/19 and 10/21	Environmental Justice (EJ), Income, and Race Environmental Hazards 1 0.23 6944-BDCt 652		