

**San José State University**  
**College of Social Sciences, Department of Environmental Studies**  
**ENVS/POLS 124 Introduction to Environmental Law Spring, 2024**

**Course and Contact Information**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Ada E. Márquez
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<b>Office Hours:</b>	Mondays 4:30 pm -5:45 pm
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	Mondays/Wednesdays 3:00 pm to 4:15 pm
<b>Classroom:</b>	Dudley Moorhead Hall (DMH) 167
<b>Prerequisite(s):</b>	ENVS 01 or instructor consent

**Course Catalog Description**

*3 unit(s)*

Development, interpretation, application and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and legal policies by legislatures, courts, administrative agencies and citizens. Examination of air and water quality, hazardous materials, workplace, species protection, land use and wetlands laws and regulations, including

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address the disproportionate climate change impacts on vulnerable communities at all levels of government? Therefore, this class will provide an opportunity to apply interdisciplinary solutions from science, law, policy, and social equity.

### **Course Format: In-Person (and On-Line Guest Speakers) Lecture Course, Off Campus Technology Intensive, and Canvas Online**

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:

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/>

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

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 \(sjsu.edu\)](#)

Other student technology resources:

[Associated Students Print & Technology Center](#) at on the Student Union (East Wing 2nd floor Suite 2600)

[The Spartan Floor](#) at the MLK Library at [library.sjsu.edu/services/services](http://library.sjsu.edu/services/services) (Fourth floor)

[Student Computing Services](#) at [library.sjsu.edu/student-computing-services/student-computing-services-center](http://library.sjsu.edu/student-computing-services/student-computing-services-center)

### **Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)**

This course will help you achieve these Departmental Learning Objectives, which are competencies we expect all our graduates to have for success:

**Department LO 1 Qualitative Environmental Literacy:** Students are able to write a logical analytical paper using good writing style and construction supported by appropriate research. (Broad Integrative Knowledge & Applied Knowledge)

**Department LO 3A - Content Environmental Literacy:** 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. (Broad Integrative Knowledge & Applied Knowledge)

**Department LO 4 - Professional Skills:** 4B) Students demonstrate professional work skills (Intellectual Skills)

*Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to do the following:*

1. Identify and explain the applications of environmental and natural resource laws in the United States and California
2. Understand the development, interpretation, application and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and legal policies by legislatures, courts, administrative agencies, and the public
3. Analyze environmental issues, scientific facts, and apply applicable environmental laws and policies
4. Demonstrate professional oral and written techniques, critical thinking, and analytical skills by applying environmental law and policy

**Upon successful completion of this course, students will submit the following deliverables:**

1. **Issue, Rule, Analysis, and Conclusion (IRAC) Method Deliverable:** You are employed at an environmental agency and your task is to write an internal memorandum. The manager requested a summary of an

practice  
the IRAC method for organizing their legal analysis. This deliverable must be between 750 to 1,000 words, with in-text citations, and references. **(LO 1, LO 3A, LO 4B)**

**a. Submit First Draft (7.5%) (75 points)**

**b. Submit Revised Final Draft (7.5%) (75 points)**

- 2. Persuasive Legal Writing Deliverable (~20%) (200 points):** As an environmental advocate or lawyer, you need to prepare a formal letter to government decision-makers on behalf of your client. The task is to persuade your reader the importance of the environmental issue (why should they care), the facts, the violation of environmental laws, regulations, and/or policies, the scientific evidence of the environmental problem, and the desired outcome.

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destroy the habitat of numerous state and federal endangered species, and impact air quality. The community and environmental groups oppose the Project. Students will prepare a letter of approximately 1,000 words, in-text citations, and references. The letter must include evidence such as peer-reviewed articles, court cases, environmental laws, etc. **(LO 10 G[(O)] 124.94 6o-re9(r)ous state and federal endacitations**





The instructor cannot guarantee classes will be recorded and available for review. Unforeseen circumstances due to inadequate internet connectivity or outages may hinder recording of

We gather as students, faculty, staff, and community of San Jose State University, situated on the traditional









<b>Week/ Module</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Lecture Topics</b>	<b>Readings, Quizzes, and Deliverables</b>
14	4/29	<b>PROVIDE Instructions Persuasive Legal Writing and Mini-Presentation Deliverable</b>  <b>Guest: Rob Swierk (VTA) “Hidden traffic metric that makes cities worse”</b>	