

**San José State University**  
**Environmental Studies Department**  
**ENVS 190- Advanced ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS (EIA) SPRING 2019**

**Course and Contact Information**

**Instructor:** David C. Ralston  
**Office Location:** Washington Square Hall 115  
**Email:**

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

**Department LO 3:** 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

Students develop expertise in identifying complex environmental issues, find accurate natural science and social science information on all key aspects of those issues and are able to develop feasible, sustainable solutions using central principles of sustainability

**Department LO 4:** Students are able to productively conduct group/team work to deliver professional quality presentations and reports. Build local environmental sustainability and democratic participation through community service

### **Course Content Learning Outcomes and Goals**

**Learning Objective 3 (LO 3).** Students will expand their training in environmental impact assessment to prepare for local (CEQA), federal (NEPA) or international work: critique of existing environmental impact assessments (EIAs), methodologies for health impact assessments (HIA), analytical tools, and appropriate applications at various government levels.

**Learning Objective 4 (LO 4).** Students will complete a professional EIA/HIA for a specific community in San Jose, CA.

## **Basic Environmental Law Resources**

Association of Environmental Professionals <https://www.califaep.org/>

CEQA Portal (Topic Papers and Case Law Database) <https://ceqaportal.org/>

<https://www.law.berkeley.edu/library/dynamic/guide.php?id=47>

American Planning Association California Chapter <https://www.apacalifornia.org/>

SJSU's Electronic Journals Index, with your student ID login information, you have free access from off-campus:

<http://library.sjsu.edu/journal-titles/get-library-passwords>

2 Readings: Please expect to attend all lecture/discussions and complete all readings *before* the

**Class participation, Readings, EIA assignments: (25%):** Students will complete the required readings, provide in-depth analyses, and participate in class discussions. Several EIA assignments will strengthen critical thinking, analytical, and writing skills. For example, each student will submit a CEQA comment letter and discuss the analyses of an EIA document for regulatory adequacy, consistency with local planning documents and technical accuracy. (LO3)

**EIA/HIA Deliverable and presentation (40%):** Each student will be responsible for an individual contribution towards the teams' report. The EIA/HIA report will have numerous project steps and deliverables (assignments). (LO3)

**GRADING**

97 – 100% A+	81 - 86 B	68 - 70 C-
91 - 96 A	79 - 80 B-	66 - 67 D+
89 - 90 A-	77 - 78 C +	60 - 65 D
87 - 88 B+	71 - 76 C	56 - 59 D-
		55 or below F

**ENVS 190 Adv. EIA S 56prng**

		Environmental measurers of ecological biodiversity. Field Trip TBD - Visit Alviso	
6	3/4	<b>Navigating the Environmental Review Process. Case studies: from lead agency and commenter perspectives</b> Developing and Evaluating Effective Mitigations Measurers Writing comment letters	Find and read EIR comment letters. Prepare one-page discussion/critique for next class.
7	3/11	<b>Navigating the Environmental Review Process. Case studies: from lead agency and commenter perspectives (cont'd)</b>	In-class exercises  <b>READ/Use:</b> Healthy Planning Leadership Series <a href="http://www.opr.ca.gov/meetings/healthy-planning-leadership/">http://www.opr.ca.gov/meetings/healthy-planning-leadership/</a>
8	3/18	<b>Field Trip/Site Visit - TBD</b>	
	3/25	NO CLASS SPRING BREAK	
9	4/1	<b>Public Participation, Community Engagement and Trust Building</b>	Attend a selected community meeting during week. Write a synopsis on the meeting attended for next class.
10	4/8	<b>CEQA Laws and Guidelines:</b> updates and policy implementation	<b>READ:</b> BAAQMD's <i>Planning Healthy Places</i> and view Public Workshop/Webcast <a href="http://www.baaqmd.gov/plans-and-climate/planning-healthy-places">http://www.baaqmd.gov/plans-and-climate/planning-healthy-places</a>
11	4/15	<b>Field Trip/Site visit – TBD</b>	
12	4/22	<b>Discussion on Archeology and Native Lands</b>	Attend Earth Day Events
13	4/29	<b>Discussion on Hazard Mitigations</b>	Teamwork EIA/HIA deliverable and assistance
14	5/6	<b>Limitations, Changes and Beyond CEQA</b>	In-class exercise
15	5/13	<b>Student Presentations</b>	
16	5/20	<b>Student Presentations, potluck</b>	
Final Exam	5/27	<b>Deliverable: EIA/HIA</b>	