

San José State University
 College of Social Sciences/Urban Planning/Geography Program
 Geography 001, Physical Geography
 Sections 1 &
 Spring 2025

Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Maureen A. Kelley, PhD
 Office Location: Washington Square Hall A
 Telephone: (530) 940-2345
 E-mail: maureen.kelley@slsu.edu
 Office Hours: Tuesdays 10:00-11:00 AM
 Class Days/Time: Section 1: Tuesdays 10:00-11:00 AM; Section 2: Tuesdays 11:00-12:00 PM
 Classroom: Washington Square Hall #WS908
 Prerequisites: none
 SCSU Studies Category: Area = Physical Science

Course Description

Atmospheric, biologic, and geologic processes that create the natural environments of the world. Discovery of local, regional, and global patterns in the location and distribution of environmental phenomena and the human modifications of natural environments.

This is a core Geography Program general education course instructing students on the fundamentals of physical geography and landscape interaction. Lectures, readings, short videos, exercises, question of the Day participation, and a final project presentation are all used to gain a better understanding of our world. Students will develop their ability to think critically, independently, relationally, and contextually. Students will also be able to communicate their ideas effectively verbally and visually.

Course Format

Technology intensive, (hybrid, online) courses

Course materials are on the [Canvas Learning Management System](#) course login @ slsu.instructure.com. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through Canvas or MySISU on [Student Affairs Portal](#) <http://one.slsu.edu> to learn of any updates.

Computer Internet access is essential for accessing materials and uploading assignments on Canvas. All written assignments must be submitted and uploaded to Canvas in Adobe Acrobat format for .pdf or Microsoft

9 i#term

! here @ill 6e one)%Dquestion onDline . i2ter . consisting of L . ulti"le choice an2 three short essay ans@ers @orth +% "oints, % I of the final gra2e, co5ering to"ics u" to Wee/ (. One @ee/ "rior to the . i2ter . , there @ill 6e a stu2y gui2e a5aila6le. Aou @ill ha5e a choice of ans@ering three of fi5e selecte2 essay questions. !he tests @ill 6e ti . e2 an2 you @ill ha5e t@o tries @ith the a5erage score retaine2. ! here @ill 6e no . a/eu" e?a . inations unless for serious an2 co . "elling reasons.

8 rticle 7evie0 &) nline %isc"ssion

Stu2ents @ill research a to"ic an2 rea2 an article highlighting a realD@orl2 "hysical geogra"hy to"ic that shoul2 6e relate2 to their final "rolect an2 "resentation. l2eas can co . e fro . ne@s"a"er articles or aca2e . ic journals. !he article re5ie@ . ust 6e for . atte2 as an [annotate2 6i6liogra"hy](#) an2 a . a?i . u . t@o "ages highlighting:

- !o"ic as relates to "hysical geogra"hy
- Why i . "ortant in general an2 i . "ortant to your final "rolect
- !a/ea@aays 3 future en2ea5ors

!he essay shoul2 6e in stan2ar2 essay for . at confor . ing to aca2e . ic stan2ar2s an2 is @orth +% "oints, % I of the total gra2e. Wee/ \$ @ill ha5e stu2ents "resent a 6rief re"ort of their fin2ings to the class for onDline 2iscussion @orth fi5e "oints of the Partici"ation gra2e.

Class Participation

Plan to set asi2e ti . e for each @ee/!s to"ic. Acti5e "artici"ation is a 5ital ele . ent of the course. !his not only . a/es the class . ore interesting an2 enloya6le, 6ut you are res"onsi6le for . aterial 2iscusse2 2uring class an2 you cannot earn an MAN @ithout "artici"ating. Aour class "artici"ation gra2e @ill inclu2e "osting a res"onse to the question of the 2ay "oste2 on the 2ays @e . eet an2 contri6uting to the 6rainstor . ingD2iscussion "ages "oste2 on the asynchronous 2ays @e 2o not . eet.

9uality "artici"ation refers to 6eing an acti5e "artici"ant on 4an5as: ans@ering the !ues2ay/!hurs2ay 9uestion of the Day in a ti . ely fashion as @ell as acti5ely "artici"ating in online 2iscussion foru . s.

Purpose and Scope

The purpose of the final project is to demonstrate:

.

Letter Grades

Grade	Points	Percentages
A Plus	90% to 100%	(90% to 100%)
A	80% to 89%	(80% to 89%)
A minus	70% to 79%	(70% to 79%)
B Plus	60% to 69%	(60% to 69%)
B	50% to 59%	(50% to 59%)
B minus	40% to 49%	(40% to 49%)
C Plus	30% to 39%	(30% to 39%)
C	20% to 29%	(20% to 29%)
C minus	10% to 19%	(10% to 19%)
D Plus	60% to 69%	(60% to 69%)
D	50% to 59%	(50% to 59%)
D minus	40% to 49%	(40% to 49%)
K	0% to 39%	(0% to 39%)

This course must be passed with a D or better as a graduation requirement.

Classroom Protocol

nBA

Currently, I do not plan to record the visual portion of Google+ sessions. However, if students wish to have their sessions recorded, then there should be a plurality of students agreeing to the digital recordings. You are under no obligations whether you agree or not. If students use the text messaging portion, then I will copy and paste the session and post it on Canvas.

University Policies

Per [University Policy S. 1111](http://www.ssu.edu/senate/docs/111111.pdf) (http://www.ssu.edu/senate/docs/111111.pdf), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on [Syllabus Information Page](http://www.ssu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus) (http://www.ssu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus). Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Additional Information

Writing Policy

Correct use of English is a fundamental requirement for your assignments to be graded. If a significant number of errors in spelling, syntax, grammar, or technical errors are detected, then there is an automatic reduction in grade for all essays. Grading rubrics for essays and exercises are on the Canvas site.

Normal academic writing guidelines are essential for this course. Please upload your assignments as either an MS Word document or Portable Document File (.pdf) only, unless otherwise specified. The Canvas Site: never cannot accept any other file formats, and I do not download and grade assignments on any computers.

All assignments must be written using formal academic writing styles conforming to standard guidelines.

- Last name, first initial, course number, assignment number, and date / day / month / year (e.g., Smith, J., 101, 1, 1/1/2020)
- Times New Roman font
- 12-point line spacing
- 1-inch margin all around
- APA citation method
 - reference page (if you cite sources)
 - page numbers
 - proper headings and enumeration styles
- DO NOT add your student name/class/date heading on your assignments because the file name and date stamp on Canvas overrides it with this information
-

>e . e . 6er, the first)% errors @ill 6e counte2 an2 an o5erall % I re2uction @ill 6e assesse2 on your assign . ent. !herefore, "roofrea2 your "a"er 6efore you su6 . itX

8P8 Style G"i#elines on the \$internet

Here are so . e @e6sites that can hel" you @hen it co . es ti . e to @rite your "a"ers:

In the "ast, I ha2 . y trusty APA style gui2e 6y . y si2e @hen I @rote . y "a"ers #as @ell as an APA auto . atic citation generator in La!eY'.

=ut there are no@ so . e 5ery nice tools out on the Internet:

- [!he APA style gui2e](#) @e6site
- [Pur2ue Online Writing La6oratory : eneral O5er5ie@](#) @e6site an2 si2e 6ars for co . "rehensi5e listing
- [Pur2ue Online Writing La6oratory APA Sa . "le Pa"er](#) @e6site
- [4itation Machine](#) @e6site for for . atting citations, although nai5ely relying on an auto . atic citation generator . ay get you into trou6le R al@ays 2ou6le chec/

: et use2 to using these resources. Aour instructors @ill 6e 5ery gratefulX

333an# finally333

Please e . ail . e 5ia the 4an5as . ail syste . a "icture of a garter sna/e #for the [Aear of the Sna/e](#)' to sho@ that you rea2 an2 un2ersto2 the content of this course sylla6us.



