

**San José State University**  
**Environmental Studies Department**  
**Introduction to Environmental Thought and Philosophy ENVS 150,**  
**Spring 2025**

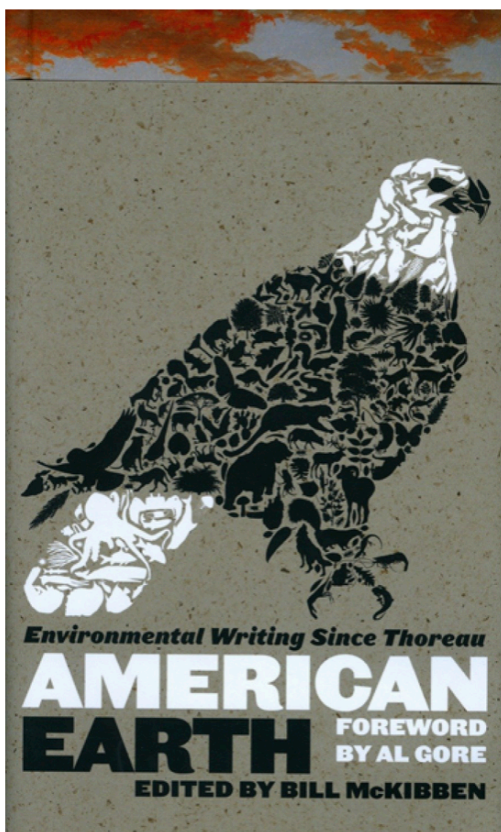
**Course and Contact Information**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Benoit Delaveau, M.S, CEM, BEAP
<b>Office Location:</b>	WSQ115E
<b>Email:</b>	benoit.delaveau@sjsu.edu
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Office Hours: ALWAYS book me on: <a href="https://calendly.com/benoit-delaveau">calendly.com/benoit-delaveau</a>
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	Monday - Wednesday 9-10:15am on Zoom (only accessible via MySJSU account) Permanent Zoom URL: <a href="https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/81785603311">https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/81785603311</a>

**Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging**

You are responsible for checking **daily** with the messaging system through MySJSU and Canvas. Course materials such as the syllabus, assignments, readings, and handouts are posted to canvas: <https://sjsu.instructure.com> . Log in with your SJSU One account info. For assistance see: <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/support/>

**Course Description**



An introduction to significant works in the field of environmental studies. Topics covered include preservation, conservation, biocentrism, environmental justice, eco-feminism, deep ecology, and environmental activism.

Satisfies SJSU Studies S: Self, Society & Equality in the U.S. Students must complete one 3-unit course in Area S. These courses cover the interrelationships of individuals, racial groups and cultural groups, to understand and appreciate issues of equality, structured inequality and justice in the U.S.

## Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

The Department Program Learning Outcomes for all Environmental Studies undergraduates and graduate students are found at <http://www.sjsu.edu/depts/EnvStudies/assessment/>. This course will be used to promote undergraduate student learning for the following outcomes:

SLO 1 - Qualitative Environmental Literacy: Students are able to write a logical analytical paper using good writing style and construction supported by appropriate research.

SLO 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

## Required Texts/Readings

*American Earth: Environmental Writing Since Thoreau*. Bill McKibben, Editor. Library of America. 2008.

*Additional readings are linked to each course module on Canvas, and urls for you tube movies are given in the course modules.*

## Library Liaison

Peggy Cabrera, [peggy.cabrera@sjsu.edu](mailto:peggy.cabrera@sjsu.edu)

## Course Requirements and Assignments

Dropping and Adding: Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, ... Refer to the current semester's Catalog Policies section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>

Grading: Use the percentages below and your scores to monitor your grade. Real time grade will be available along the semester on Canvas. **Late assignments are ALWAYS accepted following these penalty rules: up to 1 week after due date of unexcused delay -25%, after 1 week of due date -50%.**

Credit-hour statement: This three-unit course requires a minimum of 9 hours per week to complete class-related readings and assignments (roughly 2.5 hours in class and 6.5 hours outside class per week.) Careful time management will help you keep up with readings and assignments and enable you to succeed in all your classes. More details about student workload can be found in University Policy S12-3 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>

Students are not allowed to record the class without instructor permission: Students are prohibited from recording/taking screen captures and photo of all class activities (including class lectures, office hours, advising sessions, etc.), are prohibited of distributing class recordings, or posting class recordings. Materials created by the instructor for the course (syllabi, lectures and lecture notes, presentations, etc.) are copyrighted by the instructor. This university policy (S12-7) is in place to protect the privacy of students in the course, as well as to maintain academic integrity through reducing the instances of cheating. Students who record, distribute, or post these materials will be referred to the Student Conduct and Ethical Development office. Unauthorized recording may violate university and state law. It is the responsibility of students that require special accommodations or assistive technology due to a disability to notify the instructor.

## Classroom Protocol

You are expected to come to every class on time. Class time starts with attendance check (not reflected in your final grade). However, classroom participation and results on the quizzes will be reflected in your final grade. No cell phone, emailing, or text messaging during class. If you need to make a phone call or send an email, or work on anything else that class material please excuse yourself from class or your instructor will ask you to leave the classroom.

University Policies

## Academic integrity

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University Academic Integrity Policy F15-7 requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are

required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. Visit the Student Conduct and Ethical Development website for more information.

See here for other campus wide policies <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

### **Grading Information – Final Examination**

Your grade in this course will be based on your essays, discussion postings, and exams as follows, with 90-100 % =A; 80-89 % =B; 70-79 % =C; 60-69 % =D; and less than 60 % = F:

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>% of Grade</b>
Personal Introduction	10%
Reactions and Responses	40%
Selected Reading Essay	10%
Environmental Philosophy	20%
Final Exam	20%
Total	<i>100%</i>

### **Course Schedule (See Canvas)**

This schedule is subject to change with fair notice. If necessary, the electronic schedule available on Canvas will be updated along the semester on a week to week basis.

**1/27-29 - Personal Introductions** - Student will use their posting on Canvas (due on 1/26 midnight) to present to the class who they are, what was “the environment” they grew in, and why they choose this class to fulfill their Area S requirement.

**2/3-5 - Movie/discussion/Writing your first reaction paper in-class** - How US corporations poisoned this Indigenous community. Invisible chemicals changed the Mohawk way of life

<https://youtu.be/WwGRM4QWFIQ>

**Reaction paper. #0 due 2/2**

**2/10-12 - Traditional Ecological Knowledge**

**Read:** Great Law of Peace + Chief Seattle + Winona LaDuke  
(see files/readings on Canvas).

**Reaction paper. #1 due 2/9**

**Reaction paper. #1.5 due 2/11**

**2/17-19 – Roots of Environmentalism**

**Read:** Marsh 71-80 (textbook) + Thoreau 1-2; 26-36 (textbook)

**Reaction paper. #2 due 2/16**

**2/24-26 - Preservation vs. Conservation**

**Read:** Muir 84-85; 104-112 (textbook) + Pinchot 172-180 (textbook)

**Reaction paper. #3 due 2/23**

**3/3-5- Ecology and the Early Environmental Movement**

**Read:** Carson 365-376 (textbook) + Abbey 413-433 (textbook)

**Reaction paper. #4 due 3/2**

**3/10-12 - The Tragedy of the Commons and the Population Bomb!**

**Read:** Hardin 438-450 (textbook) + Ehrlich 434-437 (textbook)

**Reaction paper. #5 due 3/9**

**3/17-19 - Racism and the Environmental Movement**

**Read:** Ethnic Cleansing and Americas Creation of the National Parks

Environmentalism’s Racist History

The Tragedy of the Tragedy of the Commons

Communities of color bear the brunt

(see files/readings on Canvas)

**Reaction paper. #6 due 3/16**

**3/24-26 - Environmental Justice**

**Read:** Chavez 690-695 (textbook)

Climate Change and the Boarder Crisis

Dolores Huerta

Mustafa Ali video

(see files/readings on Canvas)

**Reaction paper. #7 due 3/23**

**4/7-9 - Selected Reading/student led discussion**

**Read:** textbook pages of your choice.

Students presentations - Post 4/6

**4/14-16** - EcoFeminism

**Read:** Vandana Shiva (linked file)

Judi Bari (linked file)

**Reaction paper. #8 due 4/13**

**4/21-23** - Deep Ecology

**Read:** Naess and Sessions (linked file)

**Reaction paper. #9 due 4/20**

**4/28-30** - Direct Action and Civil Disobedience

**Read:** Hill 907-919 (textbook)

Thoreau's Civil Disobedience (linked file)

**Reaction paper. #10 due 4/27**

**5/5-7** - Current Directions

**Read:** Letter from Evo Morales (linked file)

Encyclical (linked file)

Green New Deal (linked file)

Greta Thunberg (linked file)

Haaland (linked file)

**Reaction paper. #11 due 5/4**

**5/12** - Environmental Philosophies (student led presentations and discussions)

A 1000-1500 word personal environmental philosophy (due 5/11) will be required from each student.

The philosophy should describe your personal environmental perspective in direct reference to the course readings and class discussions. Also include how your personal lens - cultural identity, gender, family history, life experience, etc. influence your philosophy. Be sure to answer the question "How do I as an individual relate to the natural world – am I a part of it, or apart from it?" Include a bibliography with referenced material in APA style that includes at least five outside references (not from the course text). You may include as many references from the text as you like. The due date is the date chosen by the student for presentation.

**5/19 - Final Exam Monday, May 19 8:30-10:30am ONLINE with Respondus Monitor** The final exam will be online on Canvas, and will cover all course material up until the day of the exam including: readings and module content, discussions, and assignments. The exam will include short answer, multiple-choice, and essay style questions.

<https://www.sjsu.edu/classes/final-exam-schedule/spring-2025.php>