

San José State University
Department of Environmental Studies
ENVS 198-Senior Seminar, Spring 2025

Course and Contact Information

Instructors:	Dr. Lynne Trulio & Prof. Amy Petersen
Email:	Lynne.Trulio@sjsu.edu ; Amy.Petersen@sjsu.edu
Dr. Trulio's Office Hours:	Mondays, 1:00-3:00pm and Wednesdays, 3:00-5:00pm; Make sure to sign up before hand by going to my advising calendar. Or by appointment (email me for an appointment)
Class Days/Time:	Tuesday, 3:00-5:45pm
Location:	WSQ 111 When we need to meet on-line, the ZOOM Link is: https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/87379971780
Prerequisites:	Must have filed for graduation and completed the core courses for Environmental Studies core, especially EnvS 110. Taken in final semester or, sometimes, in the penultimate semester of a student's academic career.

Course Description

This course is designed to be the culmination of our interdisciplinary curriculum in environmental studies through integration and critical assessment of the field. The goal is to transition from an undergraduate experience to full professionalism. This course will reinforce the knowledge and skills you have gained with us, as well as provide you with an experience you can put on your resume.

You will have an opportunity to explore and conduct literature and data research on a topic of interest to you. Being able to recognize and use quality, reliable data, and then use those data to answer research or policy questions are transferable skills that will be valuable to you throughout your life and in whatever field your career takes you.

This is a research/seminar/project class and it will require consistent attention and progress from you. As your professor for this course, Dr. Trulio will give you personal and directed advising in order to help you succeed. The Canvas site is a critical resource for all your assignments and course requirements. We will meet in person (or on-line for personal advising), but every week there will be work for you to complete and submit into Canvas. Prof. Peterson will assist Dr. Trulio with assignments and is a resource for you, especially on writing and statistics.

We are here to help you succeed, so always contact Dr. Trulio if you get stuck or otherwise need help with your work. Please enjoy this class—it is your opportunity to research a topic YOU care about and produce a product you can be proud of and put on your resume!

Course Format

This course will be held in person in DMH 164. During some weeks, in which Dr. Trulio provides you with individual instruction, we meet on line. You will have plenty of advanced notice for the weeks we will do that.

Class Access Statement

It is Dr. Trulio's goal that this class be an accessible and welcoming experience for all students, including those with circumstances that may impact learning in this class. If you find the design of this course poses barriers to effectively participating and/or demonstrating learning, please meet with Dr. Trulio (with or without an Accessible Education Center accommodation letter) to discuss reasonable options or adjustments. During our discussion, I may suggest the possibility/necessity of your contacting the Accessible Education Center (408-924-6000; aec-info@sjsu.edu) to talk about academic accommodations. You are welcome to talk to Dr. Trulio at any point in the semester about course design concerns, but it is always best if we can talk at least one week prior to the need for any modifications.

Course Goals and Course Learning Outcomes

This course is designed to allow each student to probe more deeply into topics introduced in your undergraduate career until now. The course is run with a project-oriented approach. Each student will become an expert through primary research and data analysis for the topic they select for the course, and you will teach each other about this subject through a combination of readings, presentations, and a written report.

This course also has the goal of reinforcing all five of the Department of Environmental Studies Program Learning Objectives, listed below. These objectives encompass the knowledge and skills we have all worked together to provide all Environmental Studies graduates.

Course Learning Outcomes

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

Goal: Achieve good to excellent level of environmental research, writing and analysis in a 15-page paper.

2) *Quantitative Environmental Literacy*: Students are able to determine, apply and interpret appropriate basic statistical or other quantitative analyses to environmental data.

Goal: Be able to develop a quantitative analysis through a research question, collect data, run appropriate analyses and interpret them; they will be able to read scholarly papers and be able to understand basic analytical methods, graphs and results.

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

Goal: 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.

4) Professional Skills: Students are able to productively conduct group/team work to deliver professional quality presentations and reports and students demonstrate professional work skills.

Goal: Demonstrate professional work skills and apply knowledge gained in the degree in a career setting. Students will work productively with groups and demonstrate professionalism in their work.

5) Environmental Justice and Equity: Students will be able to provide actions they can take to promote environmental justice in all sustainability endeavors.

Goal: Define environmental justice and provide real life examples of inequity and racism in their subfield through a quantitative analysis of an environmental justice research question.

Required Readings

Research Track Readings:

- Busse, C. & August, E. (2020). How to Write and Publish a Research Paper for a Peer-Reviewed Journal. *Journal of Cancer Education*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13187-020-01751-z> <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s13187-020-01751-z>
- Readings in Module A: Track A

Policy Track Readings:

- Bardach, E. & Patashnik, E. M. (2020). *A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis: The Eight-Fold Path to More Effective Problem Solving* (6th ed.). SAGE Publications. (Key parts are on the Canvas site but you may purchase online)
- Patton, Sawicki and Clark. 2016. *Basic Methods of Policy Analysis and Planning*. 3rd Edition. Routledge. On the internet here: http://surjonopwkub.lecture.ub.ac.id/files/2019/01/Basic_Methods_of_Policy_Analysis_and_Planing.pdf
- Readings in Module A: Track B

APA 7th Ed. Citation Guidelines:

- https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/general_format.html

Course materials such as the syllabus, readings, handouts, notes, and assignment instructions can all be found on the Canvas website for this course. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU and Canvas to learn about any updates.

Course Requirements and Assignments

In order to meet our goals for the course, each student must come to every class, regularly participate in discussions and exercises, and undertake an individual project in one of two tracks: *Research Report* or *Policy Analysis Report*. We will have in-class activities that count toward your participation in the course. *If you miss a class, these activities cannot be made up.* The bulk of the assignments are associated with the Individual Project.

Assignment Type	Points	Percentage of Class Grade
Participation	10 points	10%
Canvas Assignments	15 points	15%
Individual Project Assignments	75 points	75%
<p>➤ A Note on Late Assignments: Because we have assignments due nearly every week, I cannot guarantee that late submissions will be graded fast enough to give you timely feedback. So, make sure you turn in SOMETHING for each assignment to ensure you get the feedback you need to succeed.</p>		

You will also complete assignments on-line in Canvas that will help you undertake your Individual Project. All assignments are due by 11:59pm on the dates shown below.

Assignments List, Due Dates and Point Values - Individual Project & Canvas Assignments

<i>Individual Project Assignments: Assignment Number & Name</i>	<i>Day Due</i>	<i>Date Due by 11:59pm</i>	<i>Point Value</i>
1: Draft Project Idea	Sunday	2/09	5
2: Revised Project Idea	Sunday	2/16	5
3: Literature Review	Sunday	3/02	5
4: Methods Section	Sunday	3/09	5
5: Data Collection Report	In-class	3/18	5
6: Project Proposal	Sunday	3/30	10
7: Analysis & Results Summary	In-class	4/15	5
8: Draft Report	Sunday	4/27	10
9a: Draft Poster	Sunday	5/04	5
9b: Final Poster - Presentation	Tuesday	5/13	5
Submission	Sunday	5/18	
10: Final Report	Sunday	5/18	15

<i>Canvas Assignments: Week Number & Activities</i>	<i>Day Due</i>	<i>Date Due by 11:59pm</i>	<i>Point Value</i>
Week 1: Tell me about YOU	Sunday	2/02	1
Week 1: Diversifying EnvS	Sunday	2/02	2
Week 3: Review a Colleague's Topic	In-class	2/11	3
Week 5: Draft Methods Outline	In-class	2/25	3
Week 7: Mid-semester Check-in	Sunday	3/16	2
Week 11: Watch an MS Thesis Defense	Sunday	4/13	2
Week 11: Career Center Tools	Sunday	4/13	2

Final Evaluation

The Final Report for this course will be due on Sunday, May 18, 2025 by 11:59pm.

Grading Information

Grades for this course are determined as shown below. On the Canvas site, there is more information on how individual assignments are scored.

Grading Scale

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>A plus</i>	<i>97 to 100</i>	<i>97 to 100%</i>
<i>A</i>	<i>91 to 96</i>	<i>91 to 96%</i>
<i>A minus</i>	<i>89 to 90</i>	<i>89 to 90%</i>
<i>B plus</i>	<i>87 to 88</i>	<i>87 to 88 %</i>
<i>B</i>	<i>81 to 86</i>	<i>81 to 86%</i>
<i>B minus</i>	<i>79 to 80</i>	<i>79 to 80%</i>
<i>C plus</i>	<i>76 to 78</i>	<i>76 to 78%</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>71 to 75</i>	<i>71 to 75%</i>
<i>C minus</i>	<i>69 to 70</i>	<i>69 to 70%</i>
<i>D plus</i>	<i>67 to 69</i>	<i>67 to 69%</i>
<i>D</i>	<i>60 to 66</i>	<i>60 to 66%</i>
<i>F</i>	<i>< 59</i>	<i>< 59%</i>

REMEMBER: *This is a 4-unit course* and the level of work will be commensurate with that number of units. One way to think about the work is that the class meetings and the individual project constitute 3 units of work and the Canvas activities constitute 1 unit of work.

Class Meeting Protocols

Safety protocols for this class will follow all SJSU policies which can be reviewed at: <https://www.sjsu.edu/healthadvisories/> . Currently, students must be vaccinated to enroll. Masks in buildings are voluntary.

You will need to bring a laptop to class. Be sure your laptop is charged. If you do not have a laptop, I will help you borrow one through the University. You will need to look at materials on your laptop during class.

If you email me, I will respond to you within 24-48 hours, although it might take me a little longer on the weekends. When applicable, I will respond to the entire class if I feel your emailed question or concern will benefit everyone (and in this case, you will not receive an individual response).

Technology Requirements. For on-line meetings, your laptop will need to be equipped with a camera and built-in microphone and you will need reliable WiFi. SJSU has a free equipment loan program available for students, if you need a laptop.

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.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 web page](#) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo>), which is hosted by the Office of Undergraduate Education. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Course Schedule Spring 2025 - EnvS 198 - Senior Seminar

Yellow – Canvas Assignments: **Green** – Individual Project Assignments

Week	Date	Topics	Materials/Readings	Assignments
1	1/28	<p><i>Content:</i> Course Introduction; Developing a Topic; The Individual Project Tracks</p> <p><i>Activity:</i> Groups discuss – What are important research & policy topics?</p> <p><i>Activity:</i> What is your project idea?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 1 Module • Modules A and C: Read about the two project tracks and Course Requirements 	<p>Week 1 Canvas Activity: What motivates YOU? Due: Sun, 2/2, 11:59pm</p> <p>Week 1 Canvas Activity: Diversifying EnvS Due: Sun, 2/2, 11:59</p>
2	2/4	<p><i>Content:</i> Project Idea Development for Research & Policy</p> <p><i>Content:</i> Literature Review – What is it and its purpose? What are valid sources?</p> <p><i>Activities:</i> Idea Round-robin</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 2 Module • Module A: Read Section #1 of your Track 	<p>Project Assignment 1: <u>Draft Project Idea & Background</u> Due: Sun, 2/9, 11:59pm</p>
3	2/11	<p><i>Content:</i> MLK Library Session</p> <p><i>Activity:</i> Reading peer-reviewed articles</p> <p><i>Content:</i> Methods for Research & Policy Projects; Data Sources/Data Collection Methods</p> <p><i>Activity:</i> Review a Colleague's Topic</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 3 Module • Module A: Read Section #2 	<p>Week 3 Canvas Activity: Review a Colleague's Topic Due: In-Class</p> <p>Project Assignment 2: <u>Revised Project Idea and Background</u> Due: Sun, 2/16, 11:59pm</p>
4	2/18	<p>Individual Meeting with Dr. Trulio & Prof. Petersen to discuss Project Idea & Literature Review</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 4 Module 	
5	2/25	<p><i>Content:</i> Data Management and Presentation for Research & Policy; Methods Assignment Review</p> <p><i>Activity:</i> Draft Methods Outline</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 5 Module • Module A: Read Sections #3a-c 	<p>Week 5 Canvas Activity: Draft Methods Outline Due: In-Class</p> <p>Project Assignment 3: <u>Literature Review</u> Due: Sun, 3/2, 11:59pm</p>
6	3/4	<p>Individual Meeting with Dr. Trulio to discuss Project Methods</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 6 Module • Module A: Read sections #4 	<p>Project Assignment 4: <u>Methods Section</u> Due: Sun, 3/9, 11:59pm</p>

Week	Date	Topics	Materials/Readings	Assignments
7	3/11	<i>Content:</i> Review Proposal and Data Collection Assignments <i>Review Statistical Methods</i> <i>Activity:</i> Computer session: Basic Statistics in Excel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 7 Module • Module B: Excel & Statistics Review from EnvS 110 	Week 7 Canvas Activity: Mid-Semester Review Due: Sun, 3/16, 11:59pm
8	3/18	Individual Meeting with Dr. Trulio to Discuss Data/Evidence Collection & Proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 8 Module • Module B: Excel & Statistics Review 	Project Assignment 5: <u>Data Collection Report</u> Due: When you meet with Dr. Trulio on 3/18
9	3/25	NO MEETING THIS WEEK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 9 Module Module A: Read Section #3b 	Project Assignment 6: <u>Proposal</u> Due: Sun, 3/30, 11:59pm
10	4/2	SPRING BREAK—ENJOY!		
11	4/8	<i>Content:</i> Career Center Presentation; Interpreting data/evidence for research and policy - Discussion/Conclusions/Recommendations <i>Activity:</i> Data Collection Round-robin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 11 Module • Module A: Read Section #5a 	Week 11 Canvas Activity: Career Center Tools Due: Sun, 4/13, 11:59pm Week 11 Canvas Activity: Watch an MS Defense Due: Sun, 4/13, 11:59pm
12	4/15	Individual Meeting with Dr. Trulio to Discuss Data/Evidence Collection & Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 12 Module • Module A: Read Sections #5b & 5c 	Project Assignment 7: <u>Data/Information Collection & Analysis</u> Due: When you meet with Dr. Trulio
13	4/22	<i>Content:</i> Developing a Poster and the Project Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 13 Module • Module A: Read Sections #5c & 6 	Project Assignment 8: <u>Draft Report</u> Due: Sun, 4/27, 11:59pm
14	4/29	Practice Poster Presentations!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 14 & 15 Module 	Project Assignment 9a: <u>Poster</u> Due: Sun, 5/4, 11:59pm
15	5/6	Practice Poster Presentations!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module A: Read Sections #5c & 6 	
Final Meeting - Project Assignment 9b: Tuesday, May 13, 2025 - Poster Session and Celebration! Final Poster Due no later than Sunday, May 18, 2025 Project Assignment 10: <u>Final Report</u>, Due May 18, 2025 by 11:59pm				