

San José State University
College of Social Science/Environmental Studies Department
ENVS 189, Coastal Field Studies, Spring 2024 (28177)

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Rachel Lazzeri-Aerts
Contact Me:	Canvas Messages/Inbox (preferred) or rachel.lazzeriaerts@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Before/after class and by appointment
Class Days/Times/Location	Fridays 9:30am-3:15pm Access all class Modules, materials, assignments through Canvas LMS Class meeting locations: WSQ 111 and Zoom Field trip locations: TBD
Prerequisites:	Envs 001 or 10, or instructor approval
Units:	4 units (3 lecture and 1 activity)

Course Overview

Students will learn about coastal geomorphologic processes, coastal habitats and biodiversity, and human impacts along our coasts, as well as policy and conservation efforts focused on the California coast. Various course formats will be used including asynchronous and synchronous online lectures and activities, instructor-led field trips, student presentations, and guest speakers. Students will participate in instructor-led field trips to coastal sites seeing and experiencing topics discussed in class, exploring, researching, and presenting on course topics. These sites will range from Half Moon Bay to Big Sur, and will be based on both key and current coastal issues. Students will research a coastal species of their choice, prepare a presentation to share their knowledge with the class, and write a culminating paper.

Learning Outcomes

Program Learning Outcomes (PLO) for Environmental Studies

1. Students are able to write a logical analytical paper using good writing style and construction supported by appropriate research. Assignments will require students to understand and summarize materials in relevant scholarly/technical articles, and to identify basic solutions from an interdisciplinary standpoint.
2. Students are able to determine, apply, and interpret appropriate basic statistical or other quantitative analyses to environmental data. Students will be able to articulate and test hypotheses, and read and understand graphs and basic statistics.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. be able to identify and describe the natural processes that shape and influence coastlines and associated human and natural communities.
2. be able to explain how human society and technology impact coastal environments, natural communities, and biodiversity, and will be able to evaluate the consequences of these human impacts.
3. be able to describe basic coastal policy, current coastal conservation efforts, and techniques for adapting to future coastal changes.
4. research and write a paper, using primary sources, about a specific topic or site along the California coast.

Information Literacy Learning Outcomes (ILLO)

1. An information-literate student determines the nature and extent of the information needed. The information literate student defines and articulates the need for information, as well as identifies a variety of types and formats of potential sources for information.
2. An information-literate student evaluates information and its sources critically and incorporates selected information into his/her knowledge base. Students summarize the main ideas to be extracted from the information gathered, articulates and applies criteria for evaluating both the information and its sources, and synthesizes main ideas to construct new concepts.
3. An information-literate student understands the economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of information, and accesses and uses information ethically and legally.

Required Materials

Texts

Griggs, Gary. 2010. Introduction to California's Beaches and Coast. UC Press.

Griggs, Gary. 2017. Coasts in Crisis: A Global Challenge. UC Press.

Both available at Spartan Bookstore and on Amazon.com ([Griggs 2010](#), [Griggs 2017](#)). Griggs 2017 is also available as a [free eBook](#) through the MLK Library. All additional assigned readings will be provided on Canvas.

Technology

You will need consistent access to a computer with an Internet connection. You should be using the latest version of Chrome, Firefox, Edge, Respondus Lockdown Browser (as applicable), or Safari, and can view a complete list of [Supported Browsers through Canvas Guides](#). We will be using Zoom for class activities and communication. Additionally, we will sometimes be using video recordings to share thoughts and ideas as part of activities or discussions. Canvas has a built-in Media Recorder that is easy to use.

Students are expected to have the following basic computer skills:

- Utilize Canvas LMS and associated tools/features
- Microsoft Office including Word, Excel, and PowerPoint
- File management including downloading, uploading, creating, editing, and saving
- Email including sending, receiving, and managing attachments
- University library searches
- Navigating internet searches, websites, and interactive components

Please note that I do not provide technical help beside instructions on how to access or utilize a particular application. If you need computer or technical help, please utilize the following resources:

- [SJSU Learn Anywhere](#)
- [SJSU Information Technology](#)
 - itservicedesk@sjsu.edu
 - 408-924-1530
- [Canvas Student Help Guide](#)
- In Canvas, click the “Help” button in the left-side menu for several options.

Other equipment / material

For field trips, you will need transportation to and from field locations, as well as a field notebook.

Library Liaison

Peggy Cabrera (peggy.cabrera@sjsu.edu or 408-808-2034) is the Library Liaison for the Department of Environmental Studies. She is a great resource. Email her for help via email or to set up a Zoom appointment.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Class Format

This course will be a combination of in-person class meetings on campus, in-person field trips, and online through Canvas the Learning Management System used by SJSU. Class content, readings, video lectures, assessments, activities, and exams will be organized into Modules by topic. The course is designed to expand and grow with each Module, and many sections will refer back to previous Modules. Complete the tasks in the order presented to get the most out of the course.

While much of the material can be done at a time of your choosing, there are specific due dates for activities, assessments, discussions, and exams. You must complete these components at the due date and time specified. Late work is not accepted. Additionally, there will be required meetings and field trips during our scheduled class time. These meetings will vary in length based on the topic, activity, and/or field trip location, and may have activities that count for participation points.

Field Trip Protocol

There will be 7-9 scheduled field trips that are each approximately 4-6 hours. Field trip locations will range from Pescadero to Monterey and can be 60-90 minutes from San José State. Students are responsible for transportation to and from each field trip. You must arrive on time and be prepared to actively participate. Be sure to bring your field journal and pencil, lunch/snacks, water, and appropriate layered clothing and shoes as the weather may change throughout the day. You may also want to bring sunscreen/hat/sunglasses and a camera.

During field trips, students are expected to act responsibly and to be respectful of the environment, each other, other visitors, the instructor, and any guest speakers. No electronics are to be used except cameras when appropriate.

Bottom line: We will be visiting some beautiful places. Come prepared, be respectful and responsible, and everyone will have a great time!

Student Responsibilities

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

It is your responsibility to access the Canvas course, engage thoroughly with each Module and associated components, carefully read directions, prepare thoughtful submissions for assignments, discussions, and activities, submit all assignments on-time, and make a commitment to quality work in this course. If you are in doubt about something in the course, ask! Utilize the Question Café Discussion board, send me a Canvas Message, or attend office hours.

Assignments

There will be varying types of assessments, activities, assignments, field-based projects, and presentations throughout the course. These assignments are designed to aid in your understanding of the course material, as well as evaluate case studies and local examples of coastal issues. Assignments may include low stakes short quizzes, field reports, other written work, short video responses and discussions via Canvas, cases studies, virtual and in-person field trips, and other in-person or online activities to apply course concepts to real world examples. The culminating project for the course will be a report on a key California coastal species.

Class Participation

Students will be expected to actively participate in their learning. This means that you must actively engage with the material presented in the Canvas Modules. Do the reading. Watch the videos. Think about the questions presented to you. Additionally, as much of this course is based on activities, presentations, field trips, and discussions, each student's participation is necessary for the class to function successfully. Just because the course is presented in a hybrid modality, does not mean collaboration with your peers is not essential. Canvas discussions, video responses, class meetings, field trips, and any other activities that come up during the semester may be used as participation points toward final course grade. Students are expected to attend all field trips in order to pass the course. If an extenuating circumstance arises that prevents you from attending and participating in a field trip, please contact the instructor immediately. **You must be present and prepared to receive participation points for activities; there are no makeup points for missed field trips, online activities, or classes.**

Exam

A final exam will include material from lectures, readings, films, field trips, activities, and student presentations.

Formatting

Please note that all assignments need to be formatted as follows: 12 point font, Times New Roman, 1 inch margins, doubled spaced, and include a header with name and date, and use Turabian/Chicago, MLA, or APA author-year citation style where applicable. There will be a points deduction for not following these guidelines.

Grading Policy

Your grade will be based on your exams, assignments, and class participation. All assignments are to be turned in through Canvas before the specified due date and time.

Late Work

All graded work is **due BEFORE 11:59pm on the due date**, unless otherwise indicated in the assignment details or course schedule. Late work is **NOT** accepted. Plan accordingly, and do not wait until the last minute to submit an assignment. Exceptions may be considered for legitimate and documented circumstances (ie. medical emergency, death in the family).

Rubrics

Most assignments may be graded using a rubric. For assignments and discussions that utilize a rubric, you can review the rubric before submitting your work to ensure you have met all assignment guidelines and requirements.

- [How to view a rubric for an assignment?](#)
- [How to view a rubric for a discussion?](#)
- [How to view rubric results for my assignments?](#)

Grade Scale

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
A plus	97 to 100%
A	93 to 96%
A minus	90 to 92%
B plus	87 to 89 %
B	83 to 86%
B minus	80 to 82%
C plus	77 to 79%
C	73 to 76%
C minus	70 to 72%
D	60 to 69%
F	Less than 60%

Extra Credit

Students are responsible for recording the details of any offered extra credit opportunities. Think of extra credit as a buffer, not a reason or excuse to not do your best on regular assignments.

Grading Overview

Subject to change based on progress of course.

Assignment	Points	Learning Objectives
Intertidal Comparison Project	40	PLO1; CLO1
Policy Overview Paper	30	PLO 1; CLO 2, 3; ILLO 1, 2, 3
Field Journal	100	CLO 1, 2, 3
Written Species Report	100	PLO 1, 2; CLO 1, 2, 3, 4; ILLO 1, 2, 3
Species Report Presentation	50	CLO 1, 2, 3, 4
Final Exam	100	CLO 1, 2, 3
Class Participation/Activities/Quizzes	300-400	PLO 1, 2; CLO 1, 2, 3, 4
TOTAL	~800	

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](#).

Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility

In accordance with San José State University's Policies, the Student Code of Conduct, and applicable state and federal laws, discrimination based on gender, gender identity, gender expression, race, nationality, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or disability is prohibited in any form. The [SJSU Diversity website](#) has information on campus policies and programs, the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and how to report instances of bias.

Students are expected to participate fully in all class activities. It is expected that students will be open-minded, participate fully in discussions in-class and online, and debate in a mature and respectful manner. Use of derogatory, condescending, or offensive language including profanity is prohibited. Expressing disagreement should always include an explanation of your reasoning and whenever possible, evidence to support your position.

The CSU and SJSU both mandate that all students, staff, faculty, and visitors have equal and inclusive access to information and educational materials and programs. Therefore, all instructional documents and materials, electronic materials and programs, and web based materials and programs must be created to be accessible by all. The [Accessibility at SJSU website](#) has information on the specific laws and policies regarding accessibility, as well as information on SJSU's programs to ensure accessibility. In this course, my goal is to have all materials, readings, videos, etc. created in an accessible format. If you find a course component that is not accessible to you, please let me know, so that I can make corrections.

Additionally, the accessibility statements and resources (as available) for websites, software, and tools that we will be using in the course can be found at the links below.

[Canvas](#): Learning Management System used by SJSU

[Canvas Studio](#): audio/video recording tool within Canvas LMS

[Google](#): SJSU email, calendar, and online tools

[Turnitin](#): plagiarism check tool used in Canvas LMS

[YouTube](#): video hosting/viewing

[Zoom](#): synchronous web conferencing

Academic Integrity

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University's [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. The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](#) has more information. Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. **Cheating or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University.** For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have already submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy F15-7 requires approval of both instructors.

COVID

All students are expected to comply with campus/CSU policies regarding COVID precautions. Review the [SJSU Health Advisories](#) page to ensure that you understand and follow current policies and guidelines.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. See [University Policy S12-7](#), <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>

Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exams, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.

Resources for Students

There are many resources on campus available to you. Some examples include: SJSU Peer Connections Center, the College of Social Science Access Center, SJSU Writing Center, SJSU Counseling and Psychological Service, SJSU Student Health Center, the Academic Success Center, and many places to use or get help with technology. See the [Syllabus Information web page](#) for more info. If you are not sure where to get assistance, please email me/come see me. I can help you find the right campus resources and get you connected with them.

SJSU Cares

Students experiencing challenges meeting their basic needs including, but not limited to, access to food, shelter, and a safe space are encouraged to contact SJSU Cares. The SJSU Cares program can help connect students to both on and off campus resources. Contact information:

- [SJSU Cares Information website](#)
- sjsucares@sjsu.edu
- 408-924-1234
- Direct link to the [Request Assistance Form](#)

Accessible Education Center (AEC)

The Accessible Education Center is committed to redefining ability for students with disabilities by providing comprehensive services in support of the educational development and success of students with disabilities in a student-centered and professional environment. To receive appropriate accommodations for temporary or permanent disabilities, you must register with the AEC. Additionally, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, so we can discuss the best ways to implement your accommodations to ensure your success in the course. AEC contact information:

- [AEC website](#)
- aec-info@sjsu.edu
- 408-924-6000

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

The SJSU Counseling and Psychological Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Carlos in the new Student Wellness Center, Room 300B. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide confidential consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate, or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. Numerous workshops for students are offered every semester. Hours are Monday through Friday 8:30am to 5:30pm and Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm. For 24/7 crisis intervention help, call the number below and select “option 4”. Contact information:

- [Counseling and Psychological Services website](#)
- counseling.services@sjsu.edu
- 408-924-5910