

San José State University
Department of Environmental Studies
EnvS 1-Introduction to Environmental Issues, Fall 2024 Sec 06 (44636)

Course Schedule

This schedule may change, and any changes will be communicated in advance through announcements on Canvas or via email. Be prepared to discuss the key concepts for each section in class and the main study materials for each chapter assigned for the week. Make sure to create and share your weekly environment news blog (using Google Docs or Canvas) with me. Be ready to discuss it in class if it's related to the day's topic and reading. Exact due dates for assignments will be posted on Canvas when modules are published. Make sure to read the assigned chapter and complete the open-book knowledge check quiz before class. Any extra credit assignments will be posted on Canvas.

Module	Dates	Topics & Reading	Assignments & Due Dates
An Overview: Humans & Sustainability			
1	08/21	Introduction Week Getting to know you Discussion: Syllabus, expectations and requirements Chapter 1. The Environment & Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Plagiarism Tutorial Quiz ✓ Environment in the News Weekly Blog In class Discussion
Science & Ecological Principles & Sustainability			
2	08/26 & 08/28	Read: Miller & Spoolman Chapter 1. The Environment & Sustainability (contd.) Chapter 2. Science, Matter, Energy & Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Knowledge Check #1 ✓ Reflection Essay #1: Environmental Issues (Due: Friday by 9:00 pm) ✓ Environment in the News Weekly Blog
	09/02	Labor Day - No Class	
3	09/04	Read: Miller & Spoolman Chapter 3. Ecosystems: What Are They and How Do They Work?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Knowledge Check # 2 ✓ Course Research Paper STEP 1: Topic Proposal (Due: Friday by 9:00 pm)
4	09/09 & 09/11	Read: Miller & Spoolman Chapter 5. Species Interactions, Ecological Succession, and Population Control (Community Ecology) <i>In-class Case Study #1 – Keystone Species</i> Chapter 6 (The human population)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Knowledge Check # 3 ✓ Environment in the News Weekly Blog
5	09/16 & 09/18	Read: Miller & Spoolman Chapter 7 (Climate and terrestrial biodiversity) ➤ <i>In-class Case Study #2: Biomimicry</i>	

Module	Dates	Topics & Reading	Assignments & Due Dates
		<p>You Teach! Class Discussion: Debate & Defend #1 <i>Big Box Store (Chapter 6)</i></p> <p>❖ App Activity: EWG Healthy Living App Class Discussion</p>	<p>✓ Debate & Defend #1: Complete the debate and defend worksheet (due Wednesday before 9:00 am)</p> <p>✓ Critical Thinking Essay #1 (Due Friday by 9:00 pm)</p>
Natural Resources			
6	09/23 & 09/25	<p>Read: Miller & Spoolman Chapter 12. Food production and the environment</p> <p>You Teach! Class Discussion: Debate & Defend #2: <i>GMOs (Chapter 12, 09/25)</i></p>	<p>❖ Extra credit assignment: Watch Kiss The Ground</p> <p>❖ App Activity Report (EWG Healthy Living)</p> <p>✓ Knowledge Check #4</p>
7	09/30 & 10/02	<p>Chapter 13. Water resource <i>In-class Case Study #3: Watershed Analysis</i></p>	<p>✓ Course Research Paper STEP 2: Outline & Annotated Bibliography (Friday by 9:00 pm)</p> <p>✓ Environment in the News Weekly Blog</p>
8	10/07 & 10/09	<p>Chapter 15. Nonrenewable energy <i>In-class Case Study #3</i></p> <p>You Teach! Class Discussion: Debate & Defend #3: <i>Nuclear Waste Storage on Yucca Mountain (Chapter 15)</i></p>	<p>✓ Knowledge Check #5</p> <p>✓ Debate & Defend #3: Complete the debate and defend worksheet before class (Due 10/09 @9am)</p>
Sustaining Biodiversity			
09	10/14 & 10/16	<p>Read: Miller & Spoolman Chapter 9. Saving Species & Ecosystem Services <i>In-class Case Study #4 – Restoring systems from tipping point (Chapter 8)</i></p> <p>Chapter 10. Saving Ecosystem and Ecosystem Services <i>In-class Case Study #5 – Interactive Biome Viewer</i></p>	<p>✓ Knowledge Check #6</p> <p>✓ Critical Thinking Essay #2 (Due Friday by 9:00 pm)</p> <p>✓ Environment in the News Weekly Blog</p>
Sustaining Human Societies: Environmental Economics, Politics & World View			
10	10/21 & 10/23	<p>Read: Miller & Spoolman Chapter 23. Economics, Environment, & Sustainability</p> <p><i>In-class Case Study #7</i></p>	<p>✓ Knowledge Check #7</p> <p>✓ Environment in the News Weekly Blog In class Discussion</p>
11	10/28 & 10/30	<p>Read: Miller & Spoolman Chapter 25. Environmental worldviews, Ethics and Sustainability)</p>	<p>✓ Knowledge Check #8</p> <p>✓ Environment in the News Weekly Blog</p>

Module	Dates	Topics & Reading	Assignments & Due Dates
		Read: Miller & Spoolman Chapter 22 Urbanization & Sustainability	
12	11/04 & 11/06	You Teach! Debate & Defend #4: Do you think Public Transportation Should be Free? (Chapter 22, 11/04) ❖ App Activity: iNaturalist App – Self guided research	❖ App Activity Report (iNaturalist) Due 04/10/06 @ 9 pm ✓ Environment in the News Weekly Blog
	11/11	Veteran's Day	No Class
Sustaining Environmental Quality			
13	11/13	Read: Miller & Spoolman Chapter 18 (Air Pollution) Chapter 19 (Ozone Depletion & Climate Change)	✓ <i>Critical Thinking Essay #3: Air Pollution and Climate Change (Friday by 09:00 pm)</i> Knowledge Check #9 ✓ <i>Course Research Paper STEP 3: Draft (Due 11/15 by 9 pm for peer review)</i>
14	11/18 & 11/20	Chapter 20 (Water Pollution) In Class Group Discussion <i>In class peer review session</i>	✓ Knowledge Check #10 ✓ Environment in the News Weekly Blog
Climate Change			
15	11/25	Chapter 16. Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy	✓ <i>STEP 4: FINAL Course Research Paper (Due 11/25 @ 9 pm)</i> ✓ Environment in the News Weekly Blog
	11/27	Non-Instructional Day - No Class	
Thanksgiving Holiday, Campus Closed November 28 – November 29			
16	12/02 & 12/04	You Teach & Activity (12/02 – 20 min per team) You Teach & Activity (12/04 – 20 min per pair)	✓ Student Presentations & Activities ✓ Student Presentations & Activities
17	12/09	You Teach & Activity (12/09 – 20 min each pair)	✓ Student Presentations & Activities ✓ Last Day to complete course work for incomplete grades.
Final Week	Final Reflection Essay due 12/13 by 9 am		