

San José State University
College of Social Science/Department of Environmental Studies
ENVS 158 Environmental Education (23680), Spring 2020

Course and Contact Information

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Class Days/Time:	Tue/Thur 3:00-4:15pm
Classroom:	DMH 164

Course Description

Our ability to relate to the natural world is influenced by the experiences we had with nature as children. The development of our technological society has separated us from the rhythms and cycles of the Earth. In the synthetic environments that we have created, childhood curiosity has become increasingly focused on artificial pursuits and entertainments. By introducing children to the natural environment we can open the door to their native inquisitiveness about other species and the processes that sustain life on our planet. In our role as teachers, we have the opportunity to plant the seeds of understanding that will eventually germinate into a more environmentally conscious generation.

In addition to a review of current environmental issues this course explores the use of experiential learning techniques, environmental games, and hands-on activities as tools for helping children to become aware of their connection to the natural world. Unlike many subjects environmental studies is taught not only in a standard classroom setting, but also in a variety of outdoors settings. Alternative methods for teaching about the environment such as outdoor education, park interpretation, and community workshops will be explored in this course as well. Because of the wide range of possibilities for teaching environmental issues students who take this course do not need to be on the teaching credential track, though those that are will find this course valuable. Because this course is designed for those who are interested in some form of teaching I will expect a high level of self-motivation and professionalism.

Course Goals

The purpose of this course is to give students who are considering a teaching-related career a basic understanding of environmental issues, and the tools necessary to build environmental studies into a classroom curriculum. Within the context of this course each student will have the opportunity to develop and implement a lesson plan in an educational context. Students will also be exposed environmental education in a variety of different contexts, particularly experiential teaching/learning methods.

Course Learning Objectives (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course students will have a clear understanding of basic ecology, environmental studies, and sustainability topics. Students will be able to create and teach an effective lesson on a science or environmental topic including hand on activities. Specific CLOs are:

- 1) Students will be able to answer the questions: What is environmental education? Who am I as an educator?
- 2) Students will be able to understand pedagogical approaches through theory, application, and praxis.
- 3) Students will possess working knowledge of basic science and environmental science concepts and current environmental issues.
- 4) Students will develop, deliver, and reflect on an original environmental education lesson plan that includes hands-on activities and integrates California K-12 teaching standards.

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) The information literate student understands the economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of information, and accesses and uses information ethically and legally.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Broda, H.W. 2007. *Schoolyard Enhanced Learning: Using the Outdoors as an Instructional Tool, K-8*. Portland, ME: Stenhouse Publishers.

Other Readings

Additional readings will be provided on Canvas.

Other technology requirements / equipment / material

You will need access to a computer with Microsoft Word and the internet. Be sure to bring pencil and/or pens with blue or black ink and paper to every class even if you take notes on a laptop. Although art supplies will be provided, you may wish to bring colored pens, pencils, or crayons.

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 who is available at the Reference Desk in MLK Library Wednesdays 3-5pm, by appointment, and via email.

Course Requirements and Assignments

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.

Canvas Instructions

For this course, all take home assignments, papers, and lab reports must be turned in through the Canvas learning management system, unless otherwise noted. If you have trouble with this, please come see me during class or office hours. **All assignments are due BEFORE 3:00pm on the due date listed in the course calendar.**

Formatting

Please note that all assignments need to be formatted as follows: 12 point font, Times New Roman, 1 inch margins, doubled spaced, include a header with name and date, and use Turabian/Chicago formatting where applicable. A 10% deduction will occur for not following these guidelines.

Class Participation

Students will be expected to actively participate in their learning. As much of this course is based on activities, presentations, and discussions, each student's participation is necessary for the class to function successfully. Students should arrive on time, be prepared, be creative when they are presenting, and attentive and supportive when others are sharing their work. Group activities, debates and discussions, short in-class writings and/or activities, and peer feedback all may be used as participation points toward final course grade. Be sure to complete assigned readings before class. **You must be present and prepared to receive participation points; there are no makeup points for missed class.**

Final Exam

A written final exam will be given covering all material from the readings, lectures, discussions, student presentations, and other in-class activities. The exam may consist of short answer, essay, and multiple-choice questions.

Assignments

There will be several assignments that range in length and topic. Some will delve deeper into science topics while others will build your "toolbox" of teaching resources, such as incorporating children's literature, art, and field trips into interdisciplinary lessons. The major project will be creating a lesson plan and teaching it to the class. Your lesson plan will include a kinesthetic component (ie. game, art project, mini field trip, role playing, etc). Details for assignments will be discussed in class and will be available on Canvas.

Grading Information

Your grade will be based on your exams, assignments and class participation. Total points possible may change based on progress of the semester.

Grading Overview

Assignment	Point Value	Course Grade	Points Needed
Group written lesson plan	40	A+	97%-100%
Group in-class teaching	40	A	93% - 96%
Individual lesson plan	40	A-	90% - 92%
Lesson plan dissection	15	B+	87% - 89%
Children's literature	25	B	83% - 86%
Field trip review	30	B-	80% - 82%
Sustainability activities	30	C+	77% - 79%
Environ. education philosophy	30	C	73% - 76%
Final exam	100	C-	70% - 72%
Class participation/activities	150	D	60% - 69%
TOTAL	500	F	less than 60%

Extra Credit

Students are responsible for recording the details of any offered extra credit assignments.

Late Work

All assignments are due **BEFORE** 3:00pm on the due date listed in the course calendar. Late work is **NOT** accepted. This includes any homework or in-class activities that are due at the beginning of class; if you are late to class, assignments will not be accepted. Exceptions may be considered for legitimate and properly documented circumstances (ie. medical emergency, death in the family).

Classroom Protocol

The use of laptops during class time will be restricted to in-class activities and note taking. Students who use their computers for other activities or who abuse the equipment in any way, at a minimum, will be asked to leave the class and will lose participation points for the day. Cell phones, music players, and any other electronic devices must be turned off and stored in your backpack/purse. **Any** use of electronic devices during quizzes and exams is considered cheating, and will result in a failing grade.

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>, relevant information to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. is available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>. Make sure to visit this page, review and be familiar with these university policies and resources.

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. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. Additionally, 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 exam questions, lecture notes, homework solutions, in-class audio/video recordings, etc without instructor consent. See [University Policy S12-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>.

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](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-7.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-7.pdf> 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>. Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. **Cheating on exams 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 submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that University Academic Integrity Policy F15-7 requires approval of both instructors.

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](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/> for more info or come see me.