San José State University
Department of Environmental Studies
ENVS 198-Senior Seminar, Spring 2023

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Lynne Trulio
Email:	Lynne.Trulio@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Tuesdays, 2:00-4:00pm 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:	Monday, 3:00-5:45pm
Location:	WSQ 111 When we need to meet on-line, the ZOOM Link is: https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/88266632116
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, I will give you personal and directed advising in order to help you succeed. Also, 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.

I am here to help you succeed, so always contact me 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 WSQ 111. During some weeks, in which I provide you with individual instruction, we may meet on line. I will give you plenty of advanced notice for the weeks we will do that.

Class Access Statement

It is my 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 me (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 me at any point in the semester about course design concerns—I am always eager to improve the class!--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 that can take to promote environmental justice n 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%
** **A Note on Late Assignments**: Because we have assignments due nearly every week, I cannot guarantee that late submissions will be graded or that I can give you timely feedback. So, make sure you turn in SOMETHING during your draft stages to ensure you get the feedback you need to make your project strong**		

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

Individual Project Assignments: Assignment Number & Name	Date Due @ 11:59pm	Point Value
1: Draft Project Idea	2/4	5
2: Revised Project Idea	2/18	5
3: Literature Review	3/4	5
4: Methods Section	3/18	5
5: Project Proposal	4/8	10
6: Data Collection Report	4/22	5
7: Analysis & Results Summary	4/25	5
8: Draft Report	5/6	10
9: Poster (in-class & final)	5/13	10
10: Final Report	5/23	15

Canvas Assignments: Week Number & Activities	Date Due @ 11:59pm	Point Value
Week 1: Tell me about YOU	2/4	1
Week 1: Plagiarism Tutorial	2/4	2
Week 2: Diversifying EnvS	2/11	2
Week 4: Reading Peer Reviewed Articles	2/18	2
Week 6: Interpreting Scientific Arguments	2/25	2
Week 8: Mid-semester Check-in	3/25	2
Week 11: Career Center Chat	4/15	4

Final Evaluation

The Final Report for this course will be due on May 23, 2023 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

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

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)*, 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 2023

EnvS 198 - Senior Seminar
This schedule is subject to change with fair notice—but, I'll try not to change it!

Week	Date	Topics	Materials/Readings	Assignments Due Saturday by 11:59pm
1	1/30	*Content*: Course Introduction; Developing a Topic; The Individual Project Tracks *Activity*: Groups discuss – What are important research & policy topics? *Focus*: Assignment 1	• Week 1 Module • Modules A and C: Read about the two project tracks and Course Requirements	Week 1 Canvas Activities: A) Plagiarism Tutorial B) What motivates YOU? **Due: Sat, 2/4, 11:59pm** Project Assignment 1: Draft Project Idea & Background **Due: Sat, 2/4, 11:59pm**
2	2/6	*Content*: Career Center Presentation; Project Idea Development for Research & Policy; Developing Hypotheses & Policy Questions	• Week 2 Module • Module A: Read Section #1 of your Track	Week 2 Canvas Activity: Diversifying EnvS **Due: Sat, 2/11, 11:59**
3	2/13	Individual Meeting with Dr. Trulio/ Continue Project Development	• Week 3 Module	Project Assignment 2: Revised Project Idea and Background **Due: Sat, 2/18, 11:59pm**
4	2/20	*Content*: Literature Review – What is it and its purpose? What are valid sources? *Activity*: Read a peer-reviewed article *Activity*: MLK Library Session	• Week 4 Module • Module A: Read Section #2	Week 4 Canvas Activity: Reading Peer Reviewed Articles **Due: In-Class**
5	2/27	*Content:* Critical Thinking and Scientific Method; Interpreting Scientific Arguments *Activity*: Interpreting Scientific Claims *Activity*: Discuss Literature Progress	• Week 5 Module • Module A: Read Section #4	Week 5 Canvas Activity: Interpreting Scientific Arguments **Due: In-class** Project Assignment 3: Literature Review **Due: Sat, 3/4, 11:59pm**
6	3/6	*Content*: Methods for Research & Policy Projects; Data Sources/Data Collection Methods; Resumé Tutorial	• Week 6 Module • Module A: Read Sections #3a-c	Week 6 Canvas Activity; Career Center Discussion **Due: 3/11, 11:59pm**

Week	Date	Topics	Materials/Readings	Assignments Due Saturday by 11:59pm
		Activity: What methods did authors use in the literature you cited? What methods will you use?		
7	3/13	Individual Meeting with Dr. Trulio to Discuss Project Methods	• Week 7 Module • Module A: Read sections #3a-c	Project Assignment 4: Methods Section **Due: Sat, 3/18, 11:59pm**
8	3/20	*Content*: Data Management for Research/for Policy; Preparing your data for analysis and presentation *Activity*: Draft a Project Timeline *Activity*: Manipulate data in Excel	• Week 8 Module • Module B: Excel & Statistics Review from EnvS 110	Week 8 Canvas Activity: Mid-Semester Review **Due: Sat, 3/25, 11:59pm**
9	3/27	*SPRING BREAK!*		
10	4/3	*Content*: Analysis Methods— Descriptive Statistics and other Qualitative Methods Analysis Methods – Inferential Statistics in SPSS	• Week 10 Module • Module B: Excel & Statistics Review from EnvS 110	Project Assignment 5: Proposal **Due: Sat, 4/8, 11:59pm**
11	4/10	Individual Meeting with Dr. Trulio to Discuss Data/Evidence Collection	• Week 11 Module • Module A: Read Section #3b	Week 11 Canvas Activity: Career Center Chat **Due: Sat, 4/15, 11:59pm**
12	4/17	*Content*: Statistics, con't Analyzing and interpreting data/information for research and policy: Discussion/Conclusions/ Recommendations *Activity*: Data Collection Round-robin	• Week 12 Module • Module A: Read Section #5a	Project Assignment 6: Data Collection Report **Due: Sat, 4/22, 11:59pm**
13	4/24	Individual Meeting with Dr. Trulio to Discuss Data/Evidence Collection & Analysis	• Week 13 Module • Module A: Read Sections #5b & 5c	Project Assignment 7: Data/Information Collection & Analysis **Due: When you meet with Dr. Trulio**
14	5/1	*Content*: Developing a Poster and the Project Report	• Week 14 Module • Module A: Read Sections #5c & 6	Project Assignment 8: Draft Report **Due: Sat, 5/6, 11:59pm**

Week	Date	Topics	Materials/Readings	Assignments Due Saturday by 11:59pm
15	5/8	Practice Poster Presentations!	• Week 15 & 16 Module • Module A: Read Sections #5c & 6	Project Assignment 9a: Poster **Due: Sat, 5/13, 11:59pm**
16	5/15	Practice Poster Presentations!		
	5/16-5/19	OPTIONAL - Meet with Dr. Trulio/ Discuss Final Report		
Final Meeting - Project Assignment 9b: **Tuesday, May 16, 2022 - Poster Session and Celebration!** Project Assignment 10: Final Reports, **Due May 23, 2023 by 11:59pm**				

Key to Colors:
Yellow – Canvas Assignments
Green – Individual Project Assignments