

Sustainable Energy Strategies - Environmental Studies / Sustainable Energy San José State University, ENVS 133, Section 01, Fall 2024

Instructor: Dr. Dustin Mulvaney (pronouns: he/him), Professor, Environmental Studies
Office Location: 115A Washington Square Hall (WSQ)
Email: dustin.mulvaney@sjsu.edu
Office hours: [Monday 2–3 PM, Tuesday 2–3 PM](#) or by appointment
Class Days/Time: Tuesday 3–5:45 PM
Classroom: DMH 164
Prerequisites: ENVS 119 (preferred, not required)

Course Description: This course will provide students with a comprehensive overview of energy efficiency, energy conservation, and energy generation opportunities for transitioning to a sustainable energy economy. Students will learn about metrics and assessment tools to evaluate alternative modes of transportation, transportation fuels, electricity infrastructure, designs in the build environment and other green infrastructures and their impacts on greenhouse gas emissions, land use, ecological systems, air pollutants, and environmental justice. Students will assess the biophysical constraints and opportunities for sustainable energy deployment. The class is designed to be interdisciplinary, putting energy studies research into conversations in environmental sociology, political ecology, and science & technology studies help us understand, explain, and advocate for energy transitions. Topics include well-to-wheels calculators and low carbon fuel standard; techno-ecological synergies with solar, wind power siting and public participation, geothermal, bioenergy, storage (fuel cells, batteries), and electricity transmission, integration, and opportunities for grid defection. Most of the energy sources that power human activities are unsustainable, so pursuing sustainable energy options will be critical to the long-term survival and prosperity of human civilization.

Required Book

Dustin Mulvaney. 2020. Sustainable Energy Transitions: Socio-Ecological Dimensions of Decarbonization. Palgrave-MacMillan/Springer.

<https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-030-48912-0>

<https://www.amazon.com/Sustainable-Energy-Transitions-Socio-Ecological-Decarbonization/dp/3030489116>

<https://www.palgrave.com/us/book/9783030489113>

Class & Reading Schedule (subject to change with fair notice)

Lecture topic	Readings/Assignments
First Class, green sheet, overview	Sustainability, Planetary Boundaries. Listen: Energy transition show podcast [Episode #123] - Sustainable Energy Transitions. https://xenetwork.org/ets/episodes/episode-123-sustainable-energy-transitions/
1 How do we define sustainable energy transitions?	Mulvaney. 2020. Sustainable Energy Transitions Chapter 1 Healy, N., Stephens, J. C., & Malin, S. A. (2019). Embodied energy injustices: Unveiling and politicizing the transboundary harms of fossil fuel extractivism and fossil fuel supply chains. <i>Energy Research & Social Science</i>, 48, 219-234. Richardson, K., Steffen, W., Lucht, W., Bendtsen, J., Cornell, S. E., Donges, J. F., ... & Rockström, J. (2023). Earth beyond six of nine planetary boundaries. <i>Science advances</i>, 9(37), eadh2458.
2 Fundamentals of Energy Science	Sustainable Energy Transitions Chapter 2 Energy Transition Show podcast [Episode #119] – Energy Basics Parts 1–3
3 Energy and the Social Sciences	Sustainable Energy Transitions Chapter 3
4 Fossil Fuels & Resources	Sustainable Energy Transitions Chapter 4 Busby, J., M. Bazilian, D. Mulvaney. 2020. Energy Transition: Coal as the Canary. Yale Global. https://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/energy-transition-coal-canary
5 Nuclear & Renewables	Sustainable Energy Transitions Chapter 5 Mackay Miller. Electrification: its role in deeply decarbonized energy systems Roberts, D. 2016. The key to tackling climate change: electrify everything. <i>Vox</i> . https://www.vox.com/2016/9/19/12938086/electrify-everything
6 Sustainable Energy Indicators	Sustainable Energy Transitions Chapter 6 Smil, V. (2010), Power Density Primer, Parts 1–5, pages 1–18. Listen: Energy transition show podcast [Episode #59] – Lifecycle Assessment https://xenetwork.org/ets/episodes/episode-59-lifecycle-assessment/ Listen: Energy transition show podcast [Episode #7] – EROI https://xenetwork.org/ets/episodes/episode-7-eroi/
7	Sustainable Energy Transitions Chapter 7

<p>Low Carbon Electricity Systems</p>	<p>Jim Lazar, Teaching the Duck to Fly, Second Edition. https://www.raponline.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/rap-lazar-teachingtheduck2-2016-feb-2.pdf</p> <p>Hoffacker, M. K., Allen, M. F., & Hernandez, R. R. (2017). Land-sparing opportunities for solar energy development in agricultural landscapes: a case study of the Great Central Valley, CA, United States. <i>Environmental Science & Technology</i>, 51(24), 14472-14482.</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Low Carbon Mobility</p>	<p>Sustainable Energy Transitions Chapter 8</p> <p>Sperling, D., & Eggert, A. (2014). California's climate and energy policy for transportation. <i>Energy Strategy Reviews</i>, 5, pp.88-94.</p> <p>Listen: Podcast, interview with Union of Concerned Scientists and Professor David Tilman on biofuels. https://www.kalw.org/post/one-planet-what-are-environmental-impacts-biofuel-production#stream/0</p>

9	Sustainable Energy Transitions Chapter 9 U.S. Department of Energy. https://www.energy.gov/industrial-technologies/doe-industrial-decarbonization-roadmap
10	Sustainable and Just Energy Systems Listen Cultures of Energy podcast: 166 – Kyle Powys Whyte http://culturesofenergy.com/166-kyle-powys-whyte/
11	Individual Research Paper Presentations
12	Individual Research Paper Presentations
13	Research Activity
14	Team Presentations

Canvas & MYSJSU Messaging: You are responsible for regularly checking the canvas emails and messaging system through <http://my.sjsu.edu> and <https://sjsu.instructure.com>

Course Goals and Student Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Understand the opportunities for renewable and alternative energy deployment.
- Understand and assess the renewable energy resource base on Earth.
- Describe basic principles to improve efficiency and design of energy delivery, recognize opportunities to reduce energy consumption, and promote sustainability.
- Assess basic economic, government policy, and social equity dimensions of alternative energy options

Environmental Studies Library Liaison: Peggy Cabrera, Peggy.Cabrera@sjsu.edu

https://libguides.sjsu.edu/environmental_studies

Classroom Protocol: You are expected to come to every class on time. Coming into class late is a disturbance to others. Classroom participation is 20% of your grade, and classroom disturbance will be reflected in participation scores. **No cell phone, emailing, or text messaging during class.** If you need to make a phone call or send an email, please excuse yourself from class.

University Policies

General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student

As members of the academic community, students accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SJSU's policies and practices pertaining to the procedures to follow if and when questions or concerns about a class arises. To learn important campus information, view [University Policy S90-5](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf> and SJSU current semester's, at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html> In general, it is recommended that students begin by seeking clarification or discussing concerns with their instructor. If such conversation is not possible, or if it does not address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as the next step.

Dropping and Adding: Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the [Academic Calendars webpage](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars) at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars The [Late Drop Policy](#) is

available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy> Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes. More information is available at the [Advising Hub](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising>

Course Requirements & Assignments: SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>

GRADING is based on.

20% Participation. Share your thoughts about the readings, ask thoughtful questions, answer discussion prompts. Keeping good notes about the main points or views taken by authors is a good means a facilitating a sustained discussion. You will also be asked to work in small groups now and then in class, and you will be expected to be a contributing member to your group. In this class you will be using social media and social media posts will count towards participation.

30% Assignments: There will five assignments.

	<u>Assigned</u>	<u>Due</u>
Assignment 1	January 31	February 14
Assignment 2	February 14	February 28
Assignment 3	February 28	March 14
Assignment 4	March 14	March 24
Assignment 5	April 4	April 18

30% Individual Research Paper: An individual research project on a sustainable energy strategy or source that contribute to decarbonization efforts.

Assigned: January 31
 Proposal due: February 21
 Draft due: April 11
 Final paper due: May 2

20% Sustainable Energy Strategy Team Projects: Students will develop team projects that provide a roadmap for the decarbonization of California’s energy systems and economy, (1) Transportation, (2) Electricity, (3) Residential energy use, (4) Commercial and Industrial sectors.

Assigned: February 7
 Group policy memo due: May 19
 Group final presentations, finals week, May 19, 2:45-5:00 PM

Summary of due dates

- February 14 – Assignment 1
- February 21 – Individual research paper proposal
- February 28 – Assignment 2
- March 14 – Assignment 3
- March 24 – Assignment 4
- April 11 – Individual research paper draft
- April 18 – Assignment 5
- May 2 – Individual research paper final
- May 19 – Group policy memo & Group final presentations

Course Grading

The course grade will be determined based on a total 100 possible points. Accumulated points that fall within the grade scale below determine your semester grade.

A+ 97–100	A 92–96	A- 89–91	B+ 86–88	B 81–85	B- 79–80	C+ 76–78
C 72–76	C- 69–71	D+ 67–68	D 64–66	D- 60–64	F < 60	

University policy on academic integrity

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.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 your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy S07-2 requires approval of instructors.

Campus policy in compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. [Presidential Directive 97-03](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Accessible Education Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/aec) (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.

Other Campus Resources

- Computer labs for student use are available in the [Academic Success Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/> located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library. A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.
- **Peer Connections** <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu> is located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall in the Academic Success Center as well as in Room 600 in the Student Services Center. Peer Connections' free tutoring and mentoring is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to inspire them to become independent learners. Peer Connections tutors are trained to provide content-based tutoring in many lower division courses (some upper division) as well as writing and study skills assistance. Small group and individual tutoring are available. Peer Connections mentors are trained to provide support and resources in navigating the college experience. This support includes assistance in learning strategies and techniques on how to be a successful student. Peer Connections has a learning commons, desktop computers, and success workshops on a wide variety of topics. For more information on services, hours, locations, or a list of current workshops, please visit [Peer Connections website](http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu) at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu> for more information.
- The SJSU **Writing Center** is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the [Writing Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook.
- **SJSU Counseling and Psychological Services** 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. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit [Counseling and Psychological Services website](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>.