

Environmental Research and Writing Section 01

ENVS 100W

Spring 2025 In Person 3 Unit(s) 01/23/2025 to 05/12/2025 Modified 01/28/2025

Contact Information

Instructor:	Amy Petersen
Email:	amy.petersen@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Monday 1:00pm – 2:00pm via Zoom (https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/84473889120) or by appointment
Class Days/Time:	T/Th 12:00pm – 1:15pm
Classroom:	CI 224
Prerequisites:	ENGL 1B; completion of Core GE; completion of Writing Skills Test; upper division standing; declared Environmental Studies major
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	Z (Students must receive <u>a grade of C or higher</u> to pass this course)

Course Information

In this course you will develop advanced research and writing skills. We will focus on the drafting of a research question, the gathering and categorizing of support data, development of a clear and concise argument, document organization, and proper formatting. You learn to be a good writer by actively writing, reading, and practicing your skills relating to content organization and paragraph structure. We will work on each of these areas in the context of addressing both technical and general audiences.

Course Description and Requisites

Advanced research and writing skills for future environmental professionals. Focus on issues, literature and challenges associated with environmental writing. Emphasis on writing for technical and general audiences.

Writing in the Disciplines: Satisfies the CSU Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR) if passed with "C" or better.

Prerequisite(s): A3 or equivalent second semester composition course (with a grade of "C-" or better); completion of core GE; and upper division standing. Or Graduate or Postbaccalaureate level.

Letter Graded

Program Information

Writing in the Disciplines (WID) courses develop students' abilities to communicate effectively in their major course of study and in their careers. With an emphasis on critical thinking, these upper-division core courses advance students' understanding of the genres, audiences, and purposes of college writing while preparing them for successful communication in their chosen professions. Completing Writing in the Disciplines with a C or better is an SJSU graduation requirement.

Writing in the Disciplines Learning Outcomes Upon successful completion of a Writing in the Disciplines course, students should be able to:

1. explain, analyze, develop, and critique ideas effectively, including ideas encountered in multiple readings and expressed in different forms of discourse;
2. organize and develop complete discipline-specific texts and other documents for both professional and general audiences, using appropriate editorial and citation standards; and
3. locate, organize, and synthesize information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose, and to communicate that purpose in writing;
4. produce discipline-specific written work that demonstrates upper-division proficiency in language use, grammar, and clarity of expression.

Writing Practice: Students will write a minimum of 8000 words, at least 4000 of which must be in revised final draft form.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

Course Goals

In written communication II courses, students will develop advanced proficiency in college-level writing and appropriate contemporary research strategies and methodologies to communicate effectively to both specialized and general audiences.

GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

- GEL01: Refine the competencies established in Written Communication 1A and 1B
 - GEL01-1A: Perform essential steps in writing process, use correct grammar, and form a clear thesis statement (Assignments 1-5)
 - GEL01-1B: Locate/evaluate supporting materials, identify key terms/concepts, select effective/efficient methods for information retrieval, synthesize ideas from multiple readings, and construct effective arguments (Assignments 1-5)
- GEL02: Express (explain, analyze, develop, and criticize) ideas effectively, including ideas encountered in multiple readings and expressed in different forms of discourse (Assignments 1, 2, 4, and 7)
- GEL03: Organize and develop essays and documents for both professional and general audiences, including appropriate editorial standards for citing primary and secondary sources (Assignments 1-4)
- Other: Writing (8,000 words)—Feedback and Practice (Assignments 1-5)
- Other: Reading—Models of Research Excellence (Assignments 2 and 4)
- Other: Discipline Specific Writing Standards (Assignment 2)
- Other: Issues of Diversity (Student-specific topics for Assignments 1 and 4 may be pursued)

Course Materials

Required Texts/Readings

Under a White Sky by Elizabeth Kolbert (see publication information below)

Other course readings and materials will be integrated into the weekly modules and available on Canvas as PDFs or external links.

Under a White Sky

Author: Elizabeth Kolbert

Publisher: Penguin Random House

ISBN: 9780593136287

Availability: Amazon, Campus Bookstore

Course Requirements and Assignments

Technology

To view the weekly modules, you will need access to a computer with an internet connection. You should be using the latest version of Chrome, Firefox, Edge, or Safari, and can view a complete list of [supported browsers through Canvas \(https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10720-what-are-the-browser-and-computer-requirements-for-canvas\)](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10720-what-are-the-browser-and-computer-requirements-for-canvas).

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

- [Student Canvas Help Guide \(https://guides.instructure.com/m/4212/l/710328\)](https://guides.instructure.com/m/4212/l/710328)
- [SJSU IT Service Desk \(https://www.sjsu.edu/it/support/service-desk/index.php\)](https://www.sjsu.edu/it/support/service-desk/index.php)
- In Canvas, click the “Help” button on the left-side menu bar for further options.

Library Liaison

Peggy Cabrera ([peggy.cabrera@sjsu.edu \(mailto:peggy.cabrera@sjsu.edu\)](mailto:peggy.cabrera@sjsu.edu) or 408-808-2034) is the Library Liaison for the Department of Environmental Studies. She is a great resource for all things research-related. Contact her for research help via email or to set up a Zoom appointment.

Class Format

The course consists of both in-class lecture and online weekly modules through Canvas, the Learning Management System used by SJSU. A majority of the class content, readings, and other course components will be available through Canvas.

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 for instruction, preparation and/or studying, and course related activities.

It is your responsibility to access the Canvas course, carefully read directions, prepare thoughtful submissions for assignments, and make a commitment to quality work in this course. If you are in doubt about something in the course, please ask!

Assignments

Writing assignments for this class cover a variety of styles, lengths, and approaches. Writing frequently is the best way to improve your skills and comprehension, so you will be completing both formal and informal writing assignments on a regular basis. The following list of assignments may look long, but many are designed as steps that will aid you in writing the final research paper.

Formal assignments will require you to submit your work using the Turnitin.com feature on our class Canvas website. Files must be in .doc, .docx, or .pdf format. Several assignments are submitted in multiple drafts. Explicit directions will be included in the instructions for those assignments.

#	Assignment	# of Drafts	Requirement	Weight Percentage %
1	Exploratory Paper	2	750 – 1000 words	10
2	Annotated Bibliography	2	8 – 10 sources	15
3	Research Paper Sentence Outline	2	600 – 1000 words	10
4	Research Paper	2	2,500 words	25
5	In-Class/Module Assignments	1	Varies	10
6	Resume Assignment	1	2-3 pages	10
7	Oral Presentation	N/A	N/A	10
	Participation	N/A	N/A	10
	TOTAL			100

Format for Written Work

Please note that all assignments need to be formatted as follows:

- 12-point font (Times New Roman or Arial)
- 1-inch margins
- Double-spaced text
- Name and date in the upper corner of the first page
- Turabian/Chicago Author-Date citation style where applicable

There will be points deducted for not following these guidelines.

✓ Grading Information

Grading Policy

Your grade will be based on the quality of your submitted assignments as well as class participation. All assignments are to be turned in through Canvas before the specified due date and time.

Grade Scale

97%-100% = A+ 93% - 96% = A 90% - 92% = A-

87% - 89% = B+ 83% - 86% = B 80% - 82% = B-

77% - 79% = C+ 73% - 76% = C 70% - 72% = C-

60% - 69% = D less than 60% = F

Late Work

All assignments are due by 11:59pm on the due date listed in the course calendar.

I will deduct 10% off your assignment if it is late. An additional 10% deduction will be taken off for each day thereafter.

Extra Credit

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

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 the Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs Syllabus Information web page at <https://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/> (<https://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>).

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 them. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. See [University Policy S12-7](https://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf) (<https://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 their approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course including lecture notes, module content, or other materials without instructor consent.

Academic Integrity

Please read the [Academic Integrity Policy \(https://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/conduct-processes/academic-integrity.php\)](https://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/conduct-processes/academic-integrity.php). You should know and understand both plagiarism and cheating.

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 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/> (<http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>). 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.

Here is an idea of what plagiarism looks like – this does not replace the definition of plagiarism found at the above link to the Academic Integrity Policy:

You are plagiarizing or cheating if you:

- For written work, copy anything from a book, article, or website and add or paste it into your paper without using quotation marks and/or without providing the full reference for the quotation, including page number.
- For written work, summarize/paraphrase in your own words ideas you got from a book, article, or the web without providing the full reference for the source.
- For an oral presentation, copy anything from a book, article, or website and present it orally as if it were your own words. You must summarize and paraphrase in your own words and provide a list of references at the end of your presentation slides.
- Use visuals or graphs you got from a book, article, or website without providing the full reference for the picture or table.
- Recycle a paper you wrote for another class.
- Copy from a classmate or use someone else's work as if it were your own.
- Use Artificial Intelligence (AI) software to write any portion of your paper or assignment.

In writing a paper, it is always better to include too many references than not enough. When in doubt, always err on the side of caution. If you have any questions or uncertainty about what is or is not cheating, it is your responsibility to ask your instructor.

In addition to the guidelines above, I want you to be aware that your papers will automatically be scanned for plagiarism and use of AI via Turnitin.com. If your similarity score through Turnitin.com is significantly higher than 10%, or the AI checker determines that you did not write the content you have submitted, you will receive an automatic zero on the assignment.

Resources for Students

There are many resources on campus available to you as an SJSU student. Some examples include: SJSU Peer Connections Center, the College of Social Science Access Center, SJSU Writing Center, SJSU Counseling and Psychological Services, SJSU Student Health Center, the Academic Success Center, and many other resources to use or get help with technology. See the [Syllabus Information \(https://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/\)](https://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) web page or contact me for more information.

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9 \(PDF\) \(http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf\)](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 the [Syllabus Information \(https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php\)](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.