

San José State University
College of Social Science/Department of Environmental Studies
ENVS 152, Globalization and the Environment
Spring 2025

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Chiao Su
Office Location:	WSQ 115B (or on Zoom)
Telephone:	N/A
Email:	cheng.su@sjsu.edu (Best contact is through Canvas messages)
Office Hours:	By appointment only
Class Days/Time:	Asynchronous
Classroom:	Online
Prerequisites:	None. Completion of, or co-registration in, 100W is strongly recommended.

Course Description

Scientific approach to goods distribution worldwide, and environmental consequences of shipping materials and packaging, which when discarded become waste. Mutual interests of commerce and environment.

Course Goal

The goals of this course are to 1) introduce students to the concept of globalization; 2) help students understand the importance of global trade and its impact on the environment; and 3) teach students how to use lifecycle analysis models to evaluate the environmental impact of consumer goods that are shipped and consumed around the world. This course will provide students with the tools necessary to scientifically and critically analyze environmental issues that arise from the complex global trade system.

Course Format

This class is taught asynchronous online. Critical information for the class is posted on the Canvas website.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Apply scientific principles and the scientific method to answer questions about earth, the environment, and sustainability while recognizing the limits of both the method and principles.
2. Apply mathematical or quantitative reasoning concepts to the analysis and generation of solutions to issues of earth, the environment, and sustainability.
3. Communicate a scientific finding, assertion, or theory to a general audience with the integrity and rigor of the underlying science.
4. Explain ethical, social, and civic dimensions of scientific inquiry.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

There are no required textbooks for this course.

Other Readings

Additional readings will be provided on Canvas

Other technology requirements / equipment / material

- A computer that can install and run OpenLCA software.
 - OpenLCA Technical Details: <https://www.openlca.org/software/technical-details/>

Course Requirements and Assignments

This is a participation-intensive course that relies on your consistent and active engagement. In case of an emergency, please do everything in your power to contact me prior to missing class assignments or exams.

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 3 hours per week for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Canvas Instructions

For this course, all assignments must be turned in through the Canvas learning management system. If you have trouble with this, please contact me.

Discussions

There will be online discussions every week, where students are required to post an original comment, and post a response to a comment from a fellow student. Comments should be a reasoned opinion that demonstrates comprehension of lecture material. Comments will be graded based on effort, clarity, and grammar.

Lecture Quizzes

A quiz will accompany each lecture to assess a student's understanding of the lectures and assigned reading. The quizzes will be due by the end of Tuesday of the following week. Students will have 3 untimed attempts.

Exams

There will be one midterm exam and a final exam. The Final exam will be cumulative, which will cover materials from previous exam plus any new materials. The exams will heavily focus on topics covered in the problem sets.

Grading Information

Your final grade in the class will depend on the following categories, which are weighted as follows:

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>CLO Assessed</i>	<i>Percent of Grade</i>
• Discussions:	CLO 1, 3, 4	35%
• Lecture Quizzes:	CLO 1, 2, 3	45%
• Midterm:	CLO 1, 2, 3	10%
• Final:	CLO 1, 2, 3	10%

Determination of Grades

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>A plus</i>	<i>97 to 100%</i>
<i>A</i>	<i>93 to 96%</i>
<i>A minus</i>	<i>90 to 92%</i>
<i>B plus</i>	<i>86 to 89%</i>
<i>B</i>	<i>83 to 85%</i>
<i>B minus</i>	<i>80 to 82%</i>
<i>C plus</i>	<i>76 to 79%</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>73 to 75%</i>
<i>C minus</i>	<i>70 to 72%</i>
<i>D plus</i>	<i>66 to 69%</i>
<i>D</i>	<i>63 to 65%</i>
<i>D minus</i>	<i>60 to 62%</i>

Late Policy

All assignments are due by the due date and time listed in the course calendar. If you miss the deadline and you haven't contacted me for an extension, the work will incur a point penalty of 10% per 24 hours. Exceptions may be considered in rare circumstances for legitimate and third-party documented circumstances (medical emergency, death in the family)

Classroom Protocol

This is a fast-paced 8-week course. It is the student's responsibility to keep up with the course schedule. Given the online format, participation in online discussions is an important component of the course. Students are expected to complete the discussions in a timely fashion. Most importantly, all comments should be respectful and considerate to each other.

University Policies (Required)

Per [University Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<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.**