

SYLLABUS ENVS 224 Research Methods for Environmental Studies

Instructor:

Carlos Davidson. Office: 332 HSS
Office Hours: Tuesday 11:15-11:45. Wednesday 1:15-3:15. And by appointment.
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Classroom and Time: Class: TuTh 12:35 -1:50pm Ethnic Studies/Psy 101. Lab: Tu 1:50 -3:30pm HSS 219.

For many class meeting we will go outdoors – either on campus or nearby. We have several longer field trips to sites a short drive from SF State. If you miss a field trip, it is your responsibility to discuss topics covered with other classmates who were there. Two field trips will require walking in shallow water and getting wet and muddy – bring appropriate clothes (no bare feet), and a dry change of clothes for the trip home.

Final Exam: Final exam Thursday May 19th 15 10:45-1:15

Course description: Introduction to quantitative and qualitative research methods in environmental studies. Scientific method, field methods in natural and social sciences, and data analysis including descriptive statistics, and hypothesis testing. The emphasis is on direct participation in the scientific process, through group field exercises and individual research projects.

Course Objectives:

1. To provide students with practical experience in the process of environmental studies research: observation, question formulation, experimental design, hypothesis testing, data collection, data analysis, and scientific writing.
2. To obtain practical experience with a variety of research methods used in environmental studies.

Attendance Policy: Attendance in class is required. A large part of your participation grade is attendance – coming to class, and coming on time. Participation is part of the course grade and you can't participate if you don't attend. Furthermore substantial class time will be devoted to activities that cannot be "made up" if they are missed. Students who miss more than 10 classes receive a zero for participation.

Homework assignments: All homework assignments are due at the start of class on the due date. Email submission of assignments will not be accepted. All written assignments must be typed, with the exception of Kranzler assignments. Late assignments are down graded half a grade for each class period (or fraction thereof) late, with a maximum of half the points deducted for being late. There are several exceptions to the late assignments policy: Kranzler, final report drafts and reviews of draft reports may not be handed late for credit. If you miss your final report presentation it cannot be rescheduled or made up. **The final date for handing in class assignments is Thursday May 19th 10:45am.**

Electronics policy: No use of electronic gadgets (phones, laptops, ipods, etc) in class. If you need to use a laptop for note taking please talk to me first.

Readings: There is one required books available from the bookstore:

Kranzler, J.H. 2001. Statistics for the Terrified. 5th Edition. Prentice Hall. Upper Saddle River, NJ. (This book is listed as "JK" on the class schedule). You can also get an electronic version online for cheaper.

Plus additional readings available on the course iLearn site.

SCHEDULE

Date	Day	Week	Topic (assignments due)	Reading
28-Jan	Th	1	Introduction.	
2-Feb	Tu	2	Study design, HW Testable hypothesis	JK Ch 4 + 1,2,3. Brower eco sampling
4-Feb	Th	2	Aquatic habitat and bioassessment (JK 4, 1-3 due)	Brower aquatic sampling
9-Feb	Tu	3	Field trip: Aquatic habitat (HW Testable hypoth due)	JK Ch 5
11-Feb	Th	3	Evaluating claims (JK 5 due)	JK Ch 6, writing articles
16-Feb	Tu	4	Sampling and Statistics. HW Go Fish! (JK 6)	JK Ch 10,11
18-Feb	Th	4	Sources and citations (JK 10,11)	
23-Feb	Tu	5	Social Science surveys (HW Go Fish! due)	Preston BMW drivers
25-Feb	Th	5	Statistics guide for class projects (HW aquatic habitat due)	JK Ch 8,14
1-Mar	Tu	6	HW 4 basic stats exercise	
3-Mar	Th	6	Global Positioning Systems (HW Survey data due)	Garmin GPS guide
8-Mar	Tu	7	Field trip: Bioassessment	3 bioassessment articles
10-Mar	Th	7	GPS exercise	
15-Mar	Tu	8	Review; help with HW basic stats & HW Soc Sci survey stats (Bioasses due)	
17-Mar	Th	8	Midterm exam (HW basic stats due)	
Spring Break March 21-25				
29-Mar	Tu	9	Maps; map competition	
31-Mar	Th	9	No Class Cesar Chavez Day	
5-Apr	Tu	10	Intro to GIS, GIS bike map exercise (final project proposals)	
7-Apr	Th	10	Scientific uncertainty	
12-Apr	Tu	11	meetings on final projects, EJ GIS study (HW Survey due)	
14-Apr	Th	11	TBA	
19-Apr	Tu	12	continue GIS exercises	
21-Apr	Th	12	TBA (final project data due)	
26-Apr	Tu	13	Statistics help for projects/GIS (GIS bike rack due)	
28-Apr	Th	13	TBA (GIS EJ exercise due)	
3-May	Tu	14	Biological databases & exercise	
5-May	Th	14	TBA (draft final reports due - 2 copies)	
10-May	Tu	15	Peer review meetings; help with stats (final project comments due)	
12-May	Th	15	Review session. Class Presentations	
17-May	Tu	16	Class presentations (final project reports due)	
19-May	Tue	Finals	Final exam May 19th 10:45am-1:15. Last time to hand in HW May 19 3:35pm	

Grading: Course grades will be based on the following points:

Midterm exam	80
Final exam	100
Kranzler five assignments (10 points each)	50
HW Aquatic habitat	25
HW testable hypotheses	25
HW go fish	50
HW basic stats exercise	50
HW bioassessment	25
HW GIS bike Map	50
HW GIS EJ exercise	50
Social science survey data	30
Social science survey report	75
Final project data	25
Final project draft report	50
Final project review	25
Final project oral presentation	50
Final project final report	100
Participation	140
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TOTAL	1000

Final course grades are based on total points, with 100-90% A, 89-80% B, and 79-70% C. The percentage cutoffs may be adjusted or “curved” downward based on the difficulty of assignments, but they will not be moved upwards.

CHSS Withdrawal Policy: The last day to drop a class is February 9, 2016 until 11:59pm. Starting February 10 – April 26, 2016, you must submit a paper withdrawal petition. Withdrawal from a class starting February 10, 2016 will be considered for *serious and compelling* reasons only and **must have accompanying documentation**. The following reasons are **not** considered *serious and compelling*: Changing your major, poor performance, class not required for graduation/major, not attending class or more time needed for other classes. If you wish to withdraw from class due to unexpected changes in your work schedule, illness or family emergencies, **documentation will be required**, along with a copy of unofficial transcripts. Submit your petition **within a reasonable timeframe (e.g., within 2 weeks of a change in work hours.)** From April 27 – May 17, 2016, you may not withdraw from a class or the University, except only in the case of a **serious** documented illness or verified accident.

Withdrawals **cannot** be initiated electronically and must be submitted using a paper application. All electronic submissions of withdrawals will be denied automatically by the associate dean. **You are only allowed to withdrawal from a maximum of 18 units and take a class no more than 2 times at SF State.** Approval from the instructor and/or chair does not constitute automatic approval from the associate dean so continue attending class until a decision is made. Please refer to the following website for further information on withdrawal polices: <http://chss.sfsu.edu/src>

CR/NC Option: The last day to request CR/NC option is **March 20, 2016 until 11:59pm**. The Associate Dean will not approve requests for changes if you miss this deadline.

Late Add Policy: The period to add classes via permission numbers is **January 27 – February 9, 2016**. The period to add classes by Exception is **February 10 – February 23, 2016**. It is your responsibility to procure a late permission number from your instructor and add the class. Faculty cannot add you into a class. Starting **February 24, 2016**, a Waiver of College Regulations form must be signed by your instructor, Chair and CHSS Associate Dean to add. This will be approved only if there was an administrative error.

Check your registration through SF State Gateway: Sign up for CR/NC, drop and add classes by the appropriate deadline online through *SF State Gateway*. **ALWAYS** check your registration after making any changes and **BEFORE** deadlines to be sure you are registered properly for your classes. Deadlines for all registration procedures, including withdrawals and requests for credit/no credit, are listed in the class schedule and will be strictly adhered to by the instructor, the Department Chair and the Associate Dean of College of Health & Social Sciences. **It is ALWAYS the student's responsibility to ensure their schedule is correct, even if the instructor indicates they will drop you.** This can be viewed on the Registration Calendar at the following website: <http://www.sfsu.edu/~admisrec/reg/regsched2163.html>

Disability Programs and Resource Center: Students with disabilities who need reasonable accommodations are encouraged to work with the instructor and contact Disability Programs and Resource Center (DPRC). They are located in SSB 110, can be reached by telephone at 415-338-2472 (voice/TTY) or by e-mail at dprc@sfsu.edu.

Student Disclosures of Sexual Violence: SF State fosters a campus free of sexual violence including sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and/or any form of sex or gender discrimination. If you disclose a personal experience as an SF State student, the course instructor is required to notify the Dean of Students. To disclose any such violence confidentially, contact: **The SAFE Place** - (415) 338-2208; http://www.sfsu.edu/~safe_plc/

Counseling and Psychological Services Center - (415) 338-2208; <http://psyservs.sfsu.edu/>

For more information on your rights and available resources: <http://titleix.sfsu.edu>