

San José State University
Intro to Global Studies
Global Studies 1B– Summer 2025

Jul 7, 2025- Aug 8, 2025

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Mary Poffenroth
Office Location:	DH431/Online
Telephone:	408 - 924-4831 (Email is best since I rarely check my campus VM)
Email:	I prefer to be referred to formally as Dr. Poffenroth. <u>mary.poffenroth@sjsu.edu</u> is the best way to email me any questions or concerns. For email, I will respond within a max 2 business days. Please do not expect a response late at night or on weekends.
Office Hours:	Monday 11:00 am to 3:00 pm Online or by appointment. We can meet via Zoom, Skype, or FaceTime. Please email for a link to open timeslots.
Class Days/Time:	Online
Classroom:	Online at <u>http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/canvas/</u>
Prerequisites:	None
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	Area B2 – Life Sciences

*Read the entire syllabus, as it is a contract between you and your instructor.
Your continued enrollment in this course implies that you agree to all terms of this contract.*

Course Information	2
Assignments	4
Grading Information	4
Missed/Late Work & Emergency Safety Net Policy	6
Campus Policies	8
Schedule	9

Course Information

Course Description

The principal goal of this course is to help students become better global citizens – people who are both informed about important global affairs and engaged in building a more sustainable world. Students will develop coherent frameworks for understanding complex global concerns and working with diverse stakeholders to improve the common good through a combination of lectures, resources, and complementary learning activities.

This class is not self-paced. You will have deadlines that will not be adjusted unless an issue affects the entire class. Although more convenient for lecture attendance than in-person classes, online classes are still as rigorous. If you cannot meet the demands and timing of the course, as outlined in the schedule below, please consider taking a different course. All deadlines are in Pacific Standard Time (PST).

This is a lower-division general education course in Area B2 (Life Sciences *without* a lab) for students interested in learning more about the evolving nature of our global world. **There will be biology content in this course through the lens of a global community.** The course focuses on global citizenship as an important way to develop the basic knowledge, skills, tools, and values needed for people to live and work in our hyper-complex interdependent world. It examines the nature and impact of globalization through an introductory exploration of significant global challenges that are shaping human progress on a finite planet with diminishing room and resources. In this course, we will investigate human behavior and social interaction in the context of value systems, economic structures, political institutions, social groups, and natural environments. GLST 1B examines scientific ways of understanding global phenomena and developing policies to achieve positive outcomes of globalization. Interdisciplinary approaches and new analytical models will be presented to increase the student's ability to understand and interact with current global issues, which are essential to becoming a competent global citizen in the 21st century.

Course material developed by the instructor is the instructor's intellectual property and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. Without the instructor's consent, you may not publicly share or upload instructor-generated material for this course, such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions. You may not duplicate, screenshot, or save any materials for dissemination to other parties.

Required Texts/Readings

There are no required purchases for this course. All viewings, readings, and listens will be open-source and found hyperlinked/downloadable in Canvas. I deeply understand the struggle of paying for costly textbooks on top of everything else, so I have designed all my courses to be free of traditional textbook costs.

Our Communication and Interaction Plan for GLST1B

Email / Canvas Direct Messages

You may email me at Mary.Poffenroth@sjsu.edu or via Canvas. I prefer to be formally addressed as Dr. Poffenroth, and you can expect a response within two business days.

Email / DMs will only be answered Monday–Friday during business hours (9 to 5 PST)

Email Etiquette

As our communications are of a professional nature, please make sure to use business/professional language in your email, which includes salutations.

Netiquette

As we will be interacting online with one another, it is of the utmost importance that all of our communications are done respectfully. There is a zero-tolerance policy for any inappropriate language, hate speech, or personal attacks of any kind toward another student or faculty member. If such an occurrence happens, then the University will be immediately notified, and appropriate steps will be taken to address the issue under the University guidelines.

Instructor to Student

Structured Opportunities

- I will create and post a Loom video to introduce you to each unit so you feel confident knowing what we are doing, how to do it, and when it's due posted to Canvas Announcements.
- I will send direct messages, text box chats inside assignments, discussion threads (text and video), and rubric feedback for assignments.
- I will send out Canvas posts for opportunities that may be of interest such as scholarships, internships, or talks.

Unstructured Opportunities

- I am available to chat via email (mary.poffenroth@sjsu.edu), Canvas message, or you can book time directly on my calendar for a Zoom or Phone call at <https://calendly.com/mpoffenroth/student-office-hours> with response times being 24 hours during summer or winter sessions and 48 hours during spring or fall.

Student to Student

Structured Opportunities

- Shared MIRO Board graded activities (graded)
- FlipGrid Asynchronous Video Discussion Board Activities (graded)
- Text-based discussion board in Canvas (graded)
- Global Issues Group Project: A multi-stage, iterative problem-based learning collaborative project involving research, conversations with peers, group video content creation/class showcase, and Canvas Discussion (graded)

Unstructured Opportunities

- Mastermind Live Video Chat (three times per term, graded)
- Discord chat environment (ungraded)
- Sub-Group Homepage (ungraded)

Assignments

Submitting Your Work

We will submit all work to Canvas. When a file upload is requested, you may only upload a .PDF, .DOCX, or .DOC file. All other submissions, including any .pages or any [Google Share Files](#) will receive an automatic zero grade. If you are using Google Docs, simply download a copy as a .PDF or .DOCX from Google Docs and upload that file into Canvas. Your work must be directly viewable within Canvas without any password or download requirements by the viewer.

Do not submit your assignments via the smartphone app. The app has proven to be unreliable, and you should always use a laptop or desktop computer to perform your work.

Course Learning Activities

This is a lower-division GE course taught fully online through Canvas. Together we will examine the nature of global citizenship and explore the world's major global challenges through the following combination of teaching-learning activities:

- weekly lectures by course faculty
- weekly readings/viewings from course resources
- weekly interactive discussions and/or exercises on a variety of assigned topics
- One paper (750 words) on assigned topics requiring the integration of common global content with a life sciences perspective
- One student created video group presentation on a global issue & possible solutions

Grading Information

- Grades are calculated evenly, with no one assignment weighted differently. Final course grades will not be curved.
- It is your responsibility to check your grade in Canvas throughout the semester. You will have a final opportunity to check your grades before they are submitted to SJSU after finals week. If you fail to address any issues/discrepancies before this time, no changes will be made after grades are submitted unless it is due to instructor error.
- You will have one week from the posting of each grade update to address any concerns/mistakes with your instructor. After this one week, grades will become permanent and unchangeable. It is your responsibility to ensure your grade is correct weekly. Incorrect grade change requests at the end of the semester will not be honored.
- In order to pass with a C or better, students must submit the major course project(s), which are those that are worth 100 points.

GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

The GE Learning Outcomes (GELOs) provide measurable objectives that are specific to Area B2. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

GELO1: Demonstrate knowledge of scientific theories, concepts, and data used in the physical and life sciences. *This GELO will be assessed in the following ways during our class:* Life Science in a Global World Activity #1: The Scientific Method, the Ecological Population Models assignment, Analyze Your Energy Use assignment, the Literature Review Paper, and a multitude of exam questions.

GELO2: Apply scientific principles and communicate in ways appropriate to the discipline about the process and results of scientific discovery. *This GELO will be assessed in the following ways during our class:* 10-minute Oral Presentation, climate change unit, What is a Scientist, Research Methods Module, and Give and Get Peer Feedback on the Literature Review Paper.

GELO3: Access, critically evaluate, and represent scientific information in various forms and draw appropriate conclusions. *This GELO will be assessed in the following ways during our class:* 100-point Literature Review Paper, human population infographic, global population unit, and a multitude of exam questions.

GELO4: Use methods derived from current scientific inquiry to form evidence-based opinions about science-related matters of personal, public, and ethical concern. *This GELO will be assessed in the following ways during our class:* Ethics of eWaste, Coal & Art, Wildlife Trafficking, Who Owns Water, DAPL, and The Economics of Privacy.

Life Science (B2) courses focus on these six content pillars, which are further detailed in the schedule:

1. structures and functions of living organisms;
2. levels of organization of living systems, from atom to planet;
3. strategies for survival and reproduction;
4. patterns of evolution;
5. principles of genetics, including the basis for variation; and
6. interaction of organisms and their natural environment.

Assignments

Online class activities involve students working alone or in small online groups analyzing scientific writings, finding and evaluating information for personal growth and societal use, and constructing effective written and oral presentations. Full assignment details can be found in Canvas for the following:

Assignment	Required Length	GELO(s)	Points
In Class Activities, Quizzes, & Discussions (<i>weekly for entire term</i>)	6,500 Words	1-4	550
Fellow Student Oral Pres. Summaries	N/A	1, 3	100
Individual Oral Presentation	10 minute solo presentation	2, 4	100
Literature Review Paper Project, Steps 1 – 6	750 words	1, 2, 3	100
Total			850

Letter Grades

(with +/-) will be determined using the following scale (standard rounding rules apply where .1-.49 is rounded down, .5-.99 is rounded up):

%

A+ = 98 - 100

A = 92-97

A- = 90-91

B+ = 88-89

B = 82-87

B- = 80-81

C+ = 78-79

C = 72-77

C- = 68-71

D+ = 65-67

D = 60-64

D- = 58-59

F = < 57.9

Missed/Late Work & Emergency Safety Net Policy

As you can submit your work any time before the deadline, there is no late work accepted in our class. However, here is how we will handle emergencies for all students (*You do not need to submit work that will be covered under this policy.*)

A Total of 50 points of Missed Work

Everyone is allowed to miss exactly 50 points of work for the entire term, without penalty, no questions asked. You do not need to contact me to take advantage of this, and it can be any combination of homework, in-class work, or a max of one day late penalty for any of the three individual high-point value projects. The points will not be applied to increasing your grade on any high-point-value individual or group project. The adjustment will be processed automatically for everyone after the semester has concluded.

This is meant to provide for emergencies, so I suggest you only miss assignments/class if you absolutely have no other choice (such as an illness or death of a loved one). If you miss more than this, you will need to decide if a late drop or incomplete is more supportive of your success.

This is meant to provide for emergencies, so I suggest you only miss a content module if you absolutely have no other choice (such as an illness or death of a loved one). If you miss more than one content module, you will need to decide if a late drop or incomplete is more supportive of your success. You will not be allowed to make up additional modules, and please note that this policy does not apply to any assignment that is worth 100 points.

The safety net only applies to work missed and will not count towards extra credit.

Late Submission for Primary Topic Project Modules (those that 100 points each)

Please note, to get a passing grade, you must submit all three major term projects: Literature Review Paper, Oral Presentation, and the Presentation Summaries. Failure to submit all three, if you wish to pass, will result in an incomplete by request only. For more information on what is required for an incomplete, please see the section below in campus policies.

Otherwise, for Primary Topic Project deliverables submitted late:

- 10 points deduction per calendar day late for the literature review paper and oral presentation until your score is zero.

- Presentation Summaries must be submitted no later than the deadline and late submissions will not be accepted.

FAQ About the Emergency Safety Net

If I have a doctor's note, can I have more extensions than other students?

No. This policy was written to cover all students for missing a single week of class for any reason, illness, or emergency. If you find you need to miss more than one full week of class (equal to 10% of the total class), we will need to discuss other options, such as a late drop or incomplete, depending on the circumstances at the time.

Why was this policy created?

A single missed work policy that applies to all students equally is the most equitable way to manage life's emergencies for students while preventing decision bias from me. Of course, I always try to be as unbiased as possible – but I am human, so having a policy that applies to all students instead of me deciding case by case, student by student, ensures that all emergencies are treated equally and fairly - no matter their cause. In each term, I teach anywhere from 200-400 students, and without a strong policy that applies equally to all, I can't guarantee that all students are treated equally. If you find that life has dealt you an emergency larger than missing a week/10% of the class, the university is set up to support you with a late drop or incomplete.

This policy puts the power into your hands to decide when to use your 10% emergency safety net without the stress of feeling like you have to justify your need. This also removes me as a judge of your need since you are the best person to judge when you need to use your emergency safety net. This also ensures all emergencies are treated equally - from physical to emotional to mental well-being.

However, this also creates a bit of a temptation to use it sooner rather than later, so I urge you to save your safety net for a true emergency.

Why was this amount of missed work forgiveness chosen?

The workload for this course is meant to be a minimum of 10 or more hours per week during a full 16-week term. This policy essentially excuses each student from 10 % of our course. Again, if you find that you need to miss more than 10%, then a late drop or incomplete is the next step.

Do I need to contact you or provide any documentation to use this safety net?

Not at all. I created this policy because I wanted you to feel in control over when to use your safety net without any need to ask or justify. Just know that what is stated here is the maximum for all students in our class, and the adjustments will happen at the very end of the term once all other work has been graded.

Campus Policies

All up-to-date campus policies can be found in our official web syllabus, otherwise called the [SJSU Accessible Syllabus](#). To access this, go into Canvas and click on the “Web Syllabus” link in our Module 0.

Academic integrity

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own (this includes AI) 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 the approval of instructors. You are responsible for knowing the University Policy on Academic Dishonesty outlined in the University Catalog. Any student found plagiarizing *any* assignment will receive an automatic failing grade (F) on the essay or assignment, may receive a failing grade, and will be referred to the Judicial Affairs office. Plagiarism includes copying phrases, sentences, keywords, parts or all of another’s writing, including papers or articles published on the Internet, newspapers, magazines, books, journals, or any other medium, including the writing of your fellow students from current and/or previous classes. All phrases, keywords, sentences, or larger sections of writings taken from an outside source and used in a student’s paper should be appropriately re-worded by the student AND cited. Drawing as few as five consecutive words from another’s writings will be considered plagiarism, as can improper paraphrasing. All ideas or concepts drawn from another’s work should be properly cited. NOTE: A student who shows or lends to their classmates their own work is at risk of being an accessory to plagiarism and, if their work is copied, will suffer the same consequences as the student who plagiarizes (see section 1.1.6 of the Definition of Academic Dishonesty). **This policy also applies to students in previous courses who show or lend their work to current students.**

The most up-to-date academic integrity policies can be found in our official web syllabus, otherwise called the [SJSU Accessible Syllabus](#). To access this, go into Canvas and click on the “Web Syllabus” link in our Module 0.

Incompletes & Instructor Drops

Incompletes are permitted only if a student is in good standing (has a passing grade), has completed at least two-thirds of the course, and has a documented serious and compelling reason to take an incomplete. An incomplete is not given due to poor performance. **Students are required to drop themselves as needed. I will not honor any request by a student for an instructor drop.**

The most up-to-date academic integrity policies can be found in our official web syllabus, otherwise called the [SJSU Accessible Syllabus](#). To access this, go into Canvas and click on the “Web Syllabus” link in Module 0.

Schedule

Module	Topic	Must be submitted no later than 11:59 pm PST on:
0	<p style="text-align: center;">Course Welcome & Introduction to Your Colleagues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review the onboarding activities, communication plan & syllabus ● Getting comfy with canvas and access support for you @SJSU ● Post your welcome video and respond to your fellow students in the welcome discussion 	July 9
1	<p style="text-align: center;">What is Global Citizenship?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What is Global Citizenship? ● Attributes of science 	July 11
2	<p style="text-align: center;">Research Methods & Netiquette</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Steps in the scientific method ● Inductive and deductive reasoning ● Importance of controls, repeatability & peer review ● Limits to the scientific method 	July 11
3	<p style="text-align: center;">Global Biodiversity: Challenges & Connections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Evolution as a Central theory in the study of biology ● Evidence for evolution ● Patterns of evolution ● Principles of genetics, including the basis for variation; interaction of organisms and their natural environment. ● Structures and functions of living organisms; levels of organization of living systems, from atom to planet. ● Binomial nomenclature and taxonomy ● Domains, Kingdoms, Classification of human beings 	July 18
4	<p style="text-align: center;">Global Resources: Challenges & Connections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The role of the elements of life (CHNOPS) in geopolitical stability & peace ● Energy Metabolism and Homeostasis ● Definitions of energy, work and calories ● Water, Macromolecules of life ● Hierarchical levels of organization in nature ● strategies for survival and reproduction ● Cell cycle - interphase, mitosis and cytokinesis ● Sexual reproduction and meiosis 	July 18

5	<p style="text-align: center;">Literature Review Paper Due</p> <p><i>Please see Canvas for full details This assignment addresses mastery over the following General Education Learning Outcomes:</i></p> <p>GELO1: Demonstrate knowledge of scientific theories, concepts, and data used in the physical and life sciences.</p> <p>GELO2: Apply scientific principles and communicate in ways appropriate to the discipline about the process and results of scientific discovery.</p> <p>GELO3: Access, critically evaluate, and represent scientific information in various forms and draw appropriate conclusions.</p> <p>GELO4: Use methods derived from current scientific inquiry to form evidence-based opinions about science-related matters of personal, public, and ethical concern.</p>	July 25
6	<p style="text-align: center;">Global Populations: Challenges & Connections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Global climate change, Ozone depletion ● History, research & discoveries ● Population ecology ● Human population growth: history and prospects for the future ● Communities ● Ecosystems ● Biosphere 	July 25
7	<p>Prepare & Practice Your Oral Presentation</p>	July 25
8	<p style="text-align: center;">Oral Presentation Due: Post & Submit</p> <p>GELO2: Apply scientific principles and communicate in ways appropriate to the discipline about the process and results of scientific discovery.</p> <p>GELO3: Access, critically evaluate, and represent scientific information in various forms and draw appropriate conclusions.</p>	Aug 1
9	<p style="text-align: center;">Global Economics: Challenges & Connections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How Prokaryotes and eukaryotes impact the world's economy ● Characteristics common to all cells ● Eukaryotic organelles and functions ● The future of bio based packaging. 	Aug 1
10	<p style="text-align: center;">Global Ethics & Geopolitics: Challenges & Connections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Molecular genetics & inheritance ● DNA structure and reproduction ● Human Genome Project 	Aug 8

11	Global Citizenship – Where Do We Go From Here? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The future of life on planet Earth	Aug 8
12	Final Deliverables Submit Your Summaries of Fellow Presentations	Aug 8