

San José State University
College of Social Sciences, Geography Department
Course # 49605, GEOG 112 - Nations, Cultures & Territorial Disputes,
Section 3, Fall, 2015

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Kerry Rohrmeier, Ph.D.
Office Location:	Washington Square Hall 111-E
Telephone:	(408) 924-5497
Email:	kerry.rohrmeier@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Monday 1:30-2:30 pm, Tuesday 4:00-6:00 pm, and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Online
Classroom:	Canvas Learning System
Prerequisites:	Passage of the Writing Skills Test (WST) or ENGL/LLD 100A with a C or better, completion of Core General Education, and upper division standing (60 units). Completion of, or co-registration in, 100W is strongly recommended.
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	Area V: Culture, Civilization & Global Understanding

Course Format

This course is taught entirely online. All course resources can be found on the GEOG 112 [Canvas](#) webpage using your 9-digit SJSU ID and password. You are responsible for regularly checking this website often for the latest information and communication. Please log in and follow the 'Getting Started' steps.

Faculty Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the Canvas learning management system course website. You are responsible for regularly checking with the Canvas website to learn of any updates. The email address listed above is best for the fastest reply.

Course Description

From the Course Catalog: In a world with rapidly diminishing resources new conflicts are emerging based on factors such as ethnicity, economic opportunity, religion, and nationalism. Explore global circumstances leading to conflict. (3 units)

Learning Outcomes and Course Goals

GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

GEOG112 is an Area V course: Culture, Civilization, and Global Understanding meant to provide students with an appreciation for cultures outside the United States. With this should come increased awareness of how foreign traditions have influenced American culture and its' global interactions. As a geographic survey of pressing contemporary issues – in politics, economy, security, and human-environmental impact - course readings, documentary films, in-class exercises, and discussions will be used to gain greater understanding of complex problems. Students will hone critical, relational, and contextual thinking and be expected to communicate independent views effectively, particularly in written format.

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

- *GELO 1 Compare systematically the ideas, values, images, cultural artifacts, economic structures, technological developments, and/or attitudes of people from more than one culture outside the U.S.*
Students will demonstrate understanding through weekly written online forum responses and threaded discussions. Students will further critically compare these concepts in a written review article.
- *GELO 2 Identify the historic context of ideas and cultural traditions outside the U.S., and how they have influenced American culture.*
In addition to the weekly written online forum responses and threaded discussions, students will specifically address this in two written essays pertaining to four documentary films shown this term. Students will synthesize the breadth of their understanding in a final exam essay.
- *GELO 3 Explain how a culture outside the U.S. has changed in response to internal and external pressures.*
Students, in a small group format, will facilitate online discussions covering cultural changes and pressures beyond U.S. borders.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Excerpts from *Global Issues: Selections from CQ Researcher* (2014 ed.) are available for free online through MLK Library. Each chapter covered this term has been provided to you under the 'Files' tab in Canvas.

Course Requirements and 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.

- Active online participation is imperative to your overall grade in this course (50% of your total grade), and so frequent online engagement on Canvas is expected throughout each week. In addition to posting individual assigned content in the forum you must read through fellow classmate posts and reply to their discussion threads (GELO 1).

- Student groups will be tasked to lead a textbook chapter discussion (GELO 3). This will include guiding understanding by preparing supporting slides to annotate the week’s assigned reading along with any additional supplementary materials to support said content. Then once the online discussion goes live group members are responsible for not just adding their individual responses, but also to moderate all student posts by prompt reply of follow-up commentary and facilitate further questioning and critical thought. At the end of the discussion week the lead group will submit a summarized response recap. All students within each group will earn the same grade.
- Links to four documentary films will be posted during this course. Two times during the term you are to demonstrate in writing how you have thought critically about narratives or images seen in a film from a global geography/social sciences context (GELO 2). Each essay must have 3 typed pages (double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, with 1” margins on all sides) summarizing new facts gained along with a thought-provoking critique of the film. Essays must include a total word count noted at the end [750 words minimum].
- A Review Article is a concise paper usually written by an editor that summarizes, compares, and contrasts all recent findings on a specific topic or theme. Create a 500-word review article, + or – 25 words, tying together any two textbook chapters (GELO 1). Your article must be one typed page (single-spaced, 12-point times new roman font with no more than 1” margins on all sides).
- The final exam is a single essay prompt. You must clearly support and defend in a written essay what you have gained from this course and how this might apply it to your postgraduate goals (GELO 2). Cite specific examples in your essay to support your argument.

Grading Policy

	Points Possible
Participation in Online Forums	500
Group-Led Discussion	100
Film Essay 1	50
Film Essay 2	50
Review Article	200
Final Exam	100
<i>Optional Extra Credit Film Essay 3</i>	25
TOTAL	1,000

SCALE:

A+ = ≥98%	A = 94-97%	A- = 90-93%
B+ = 87-89%	B = 84-86%	B- = 80-83%
C+ = 77-79%	C = 74-76%	C- = 70-73%
D+ = 67-69%	D = 60-66%	D- = 51-59%
		F = ≤50%

All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades. In keeping with this policy, and to making grading responsive. All assignments are due as stated on the Course Schedule and Canvas. **Late work is not accepted.** Please save all your work until after you have checked your final course grade. Then if you have questions about your final grade, you can bring in past work, and if necessary, corrections can be made.

Students are strongly encouraged to take courses to satisfy GE Areas R, S, and V from departments other than their major department. Passage of the Writing Skills Test (WST) or ENGL/LLD 100A with a C or better (C- not accepted), and completion of Core General Education are prerequisite to all SJSU Studies courses. Completion of, or co--registration in, 100W is strongly recommended. A minimum aggregate GPA of 2.0 in GE Areas R, S, & V shall be required of all students.

Online Classroom Protocol

- Assigned textbook readings must be completed prior to participation in the discussion forums.
- This course covers controversial and politically charged content so civility and courteousness is always expected. While we may not agree with other perspectives and opinions stated, respect is mandatory.

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. See [University Policy S90-5](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf>. More detailed information on a variety of related topics is available in the [SJSU catalog](http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html), at <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.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 serve to address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as a next step.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's [Catalog Policies](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/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.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

[University Policy S12-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf), <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>, requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

- “Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”
 - It is suggested that the greensheet include the instructor's process for granting permission, whether in writing or orally and whether for the whole semester or on a class by class basis.
 - In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.

- “Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”

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/>.

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.

Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays

San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed. See [University Policy S14-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf>.

Student Technology 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.

SJSU Peer Connections

Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory,

alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics. A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC).

Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10th and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit [Peer Connections website](http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu) at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu> for more information.

SJSU Writing Center

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. (Note: You need to have a QR Reader to



scan this code.)

SJSU Counseling Services

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide 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 Services website](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>.

Course # 49605 / GEOG 112 – Nations, Cultures & Territorial Disputes, Fall 2015, Course Schedule

This schedule is subject to change with fair notice. For the most up to date course information please check Canvas.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	8/27 - 8/30	Review the syllabus, introduce yourself on Canvas, meet your group, review all assignments and due dates, locate the text chapters and background materials in the Canvas 'Files' tab
2	8/31 - 9/6	Ch 1: Chemical & Biological Weapons
3	9/7 - 9/13	Ch 16: Climate Change Film 1: <i>Chasing Ice</i> – if you choose to write on this film for one of the two required film essay assignments then it is Due 9/13
4	9/14 - 9/20	Ch 15: Future of the Arctic (Group A)
5	9/21 - 9/27	Ch 7: U.S. Trade Policy (Group B)
6	9/28 - 10/4	Ch 10: Euro Crises (Group C)
7	10/5 - 10/11	Ch 4: Border Security (Group D) Film 2: <i>Which Way Home</i> – if you choose to write on this film for one of the two required film essay assignments then it is Due 10/11
8	10/12 - 10/18	Ch 2: Israeli-Palestinian Conflict (Group E)
9	10/19 - 10/25	Ch 3: Iraq War - 10 Years Later (Group F)
10	10/26 - 11/1	Ch 14: Islamic Sectarianism (Group G)
11	11/2 - 11/8	Ch 6: Unrest in the Arab World (Group H) Film 3: <i>The Square</i> – if you choose to write on this film for one of the two required film essay assignments then it is Due 11/8
12	11/9 - 11/15	Ch 12: State Capitalism (Group I)
13	11/16 - 11/22	Ch 13: Free Speech At Risk (Group J) Film 4: <i>Ai WeiWei: Never Sorry</i> – if you choose to write on this film for one of the two required film essay assignments then it is Due 11/22
14	11/23 - 11/29	Ch 11: China in Latin America (Group K)
15	11/30 - 12/6	Ch 9: Booming Africa (Group L)
16	12/7 - 12/13	Ch 8: Millennium Development Goals Review Article - Due 12/13
Finals Week		Final Exam Essay - Due 12/15 <i>Optional Extra Credit Film Essay 3 Due 12/15</i>