

San José State University
College of Social Sciences, Geography Department
Course # 47260, GEOG 125 – Selected Topics in Human Geography, Fall, 2015

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Kerry Rohrmeier, Ph.D.
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Office Hours:	Monday 1:30-2:30 pm, Tuesday 4:00-6:00 pm, and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Monday & Wednesday* 12:00-1:15 pm
Classroom:	Clark Building, Room 224
Prerequisites:	Upper Division Standing (60 units)

Course Format

This is a lecture course taught in a flipped format, which means a considerable portion of student work is to be done outside of classroom meetings. In addition, all course resources can be found on the GEOG 125 [Canvas](#) webpage using your 9-digit SJSU ID and password. You are responsible for regularly checking this website 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: “Changing topics in human geography,” (3 units). This term special topics count towards Human Geography or Regional Geography core degree requirements. The subdiscipline of radical geography will be examined in an effort to gain theoretical understanding of its underlying concerns with capitalism, nature, culture, class, and identity. We will explore historic social experiments along with the notion of utopian/ dystopian futures to see how these shape present settlement practices and movements. Regional

examples from California and the American West will highlight increasing inequality, segmentation, and community isolation with the goal of problem-solving solutions that foster connections between land and people.

Learning Outcomes and Course Goals

Course Learning Objectives (CLO)

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

- CLO 1 *Demonstrate ability to read and understand research literature and engage in productive research activities.*

All ten student assignments, the literature review, research notes, and final exam require independent sourcing, reading, and analytical writing on radical geography as a significant contribution to the field of human geography.

- CLO2 *Demonstrate professional communication skills.*

Each student will moderate salon style discussions on two utopian experiments. In addition, graduate students taking this course are required to give a 15-minute oral presentation highlighting an exhibition of art brut in any of the American West's many desert landscapes.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

A traditional textbook is not required for this class. Readings are hyperlinked in the course schedule, and are also accessible through the course Canvas webpage.

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.

- 1) Active participation in this course is mandatory, and is especially imperative during the six salon weeks (CLO 2). Given the obscure nature of radical geography most topics covered are not mainstream knowledge, and with the flipped course format you will likely have little to contribute to topical class discussions if you have not completed required reading ahead of time.
- 2) There are 10 assignments to be completed outside of class meetings (CLO 1). These range from introducing yourself, to peer review exercises, taking an experiential walk the Situationists' termed *dérive*, writing two film critiques, moderating two salons [themed intellectual discussions], engaging in an online debate, and preparing an annotated bibliography.
- 3) A well-written literature review discusses academic writings pertaining to a certain subject; often confused with a research paper (which should instead take on an argument), a lit review remains an objective synthesis of pertinent material. While many historic American utopian experiments will be discussed in the salons students need to focus their literature reviews only on California as it is often looked upon by outsiders as a utopia in an of itself (CLO 1).
- 4) Research Notes are frequently prepared by under/graduate assistants to aid in meeting a faculty advisor's academic writing demands. In this case you will write on a specific topic – arcossanti, Paolo Solari's urban laboratory in the Arizona desert (CLO 1). Notes may be in a bulleted format but writing must be clear and succinct to be worthy of university press publication. Your research notes should include two parts. First,

the concept of arcology as a space within the utopian historical and cultural tradition and secondly whether the land use, design, and functionality of arcocanti as a permanent place is successful.

- 5) The final exam is a single essay prompt. You must clearly support and defend in a written essay how this course has shaped, extended, or redefined your understanding of human geography (CLO 1). Cite specific examples in your essay to support your argument.

Grading Policy

	Points Possible
Assignments 1-10	400 (40 each)
Participation in Salons (6 Weeks)	150 (25 each)
California's Utopian Experiments Literature Review	200
Research Notes on Arcocanti	200
Final Exam Essay (Greenbook)	50
TOTAL	1,000

Note: Department policy dictates that graduate students are expected to contribute more than undergraduate students taking undergraduate courses. Therefore, an additional 15-minute presentation is required for 50-points; making the graduate student total points possible 1,050 points.

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.

Classroom & Online Protocol

- All assigned readings must be completed prior to class for successful participation in discussions.
- This course covers controversial, political, and adult 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 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, 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 # 47260 / GEOG 125 Selected Topics in Human Geography, Fall 2015, Course Schedule

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

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	8/24 Class 8/26	EXPLORING & EXPERIENCING SPACE & PLACE What is Radical Geography? Set course intentions, Consensus-based Decision Making, Organization of Space Topophilia by Yi-fu Tuan (Preface - Ch 2) Assign 1: Performativity in Space - Introduce Your Authentic Self Due 8/30
2	8/31 Class 9/2	Should one measure society by how it treats its criminals? Panopticism by Michel Foucault Assign 2: Film critique of Plagues & Pleasures on the Salton Sea Film by John Waters Due 9/6
3	9/7 9/9	LABOR DAY HOLIDAY Assign 3: Situationist International and your one-day Dérive Due 9/13
4	9/14 Class 9/16	UTOPIAN COMMUNITIES IN AMERICAN HISTORY Preparing for the Salon Format Assign 4: Prepare Research Notes for Moderating Salon Topic 1 (Due Saturday Prior to Topic) Assign 5: Prepare Research Notes for Moderating Salon Topic 2 (Due Saturday Prior to Topic)
5	9/21 Class 9/23	Religious Communities Salon: New Haven, Harmony, Brook Farm, Kingdom of St. James, Oneida, Point Loma Start Lit Review: California's Utopian Experiments Paper [Part 1 - Point Loma]
6	9/28 Class 9/30	Socialist Communities Salon: Icaria, Fountain Grove, Kaweah, Halcyon Paper Cont.: California's Utopian Experiments [Part 2 – Fountain Grove & Kaweah]
7	10/5 Class 10/7	Anarchist Intellectuals Salon: Readings by Peter Kropotkin, Noam Chomsky, and Hakim Bey , The Diggers Paper Cont.: California's Utopian Experiments [Part 3 – The Diggers]
8	10/12 Class 10/14	Race Salon: Nashoba, Holy City, Father Divine & The Peace Mission, Hog Farm Complete Lit Review: California's Utopian Experiments [Part 4 - Holy City and Intro/Conclusion]
9	10/19 Class 10/21	Ecotopias Salon: Drop City, Twin Oaks, Family of Mystic Arts, The Farm Assign 6: Draft Lit Review Peer Review Due 10/21 California's Utopian Experiments Lit Review Final Draft Due 10/25
10	10/26 Class	Sexuality in Space Salon: New Harmony, Ephrata Cloister, Society of the Women in Wilder, North American Phalanx

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
	10/28	Assign 7: Debate about “State Sanctioned Sex: Negotiating Formal and Informal Regulatory Practices in Nevada” by Barbara Bretts and Kathryn Hausbeck Due 11/1
11	11/2 Class 11/4	THE DESERT AS A TABLA RASA FOR EXPERIMENTATION & PRODUCTION OF HETERODOXY Outsider Art (know also as Art Brut) in deserts of the American West Grad Student Presentation on ‘City’ by Michael Heizer, watch <i>Cave Digger</i> Assign 8: Film critique of <i>Cave Digger</i> Due 11/8
12	11/9 Class 11/11	Preparing for your Research Assistantship on Arcosanti VETERAN’S DAY HOLIDAY
13	11/16 Class 11/18	The role of the visionary, Paulo Solari Assign 9: Prepare an annotated bibliography of Paulo Solari including his own works and works/media sources about him Due 11/21
14	11/23 Class 11/25	Case Study 1: Arcosanti, An Urban Laboratory Independent Work on Research Notes Focus Part A on Arcology as a space in historical and cultural context Focus Part B on Arcosanti as a place by examining its land use, design, and functionality
15	11/30 Class 12/2	Case Study 2: Black Rock City - The World’s Largest Intentional Community Assign 10: Research Notes Peer Review Due 12/6
16	12/7 Class	Evaluate Intentions and Course Rituals Research Notes Final Draft Due 12/9
Final	12/10 @ 9:45 am	Final Exam Essay – Bring a Greenbook