

San José State University
Department of Geography and Global Studies
GEOG 12, Global Geography, Section 80, Spring 2018

Course and Contact Information

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Class Days/Time:	online
Web Address:	Canvas: http://sjsu.instructure.com
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	Social Science – Comparative Systems – D2

Course Format

This is an online course. Internet connectivity and a computer are required. Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on Canvas Learning Management System course login website at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>.

Course Description

Comparative geography of our world: regions and countries, natural environments and resources, settlements and land use, cultural diversity, economic and political patterns. Prerequisite: Sophomore or upper division standing.

Course Goals

The purpose of this class is to provide a framework for understanding the world from a geographic perspective. Readings and lectures will focus on three related themes. The first is location and explanation of key elements in the world's physical and human geography. Physical geography includes the geophysical and biological processes that give character to the world's natural environments. Human geography includes all those processes and materials people use to build a world for themselves and to distinguish themselves in groups. This includes economic, social, and political issues, particularly as these effect land use, settlement, and the organization of space. The second theme of the course is assessing the impacts of people, families, communities, and their institutions on natural environments from local, regional and global perspectives. And the third theme is gaining an understanding of the diversity of economic development on a local, national and regional basis.

GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

Upon successful completion of the course, students shall be able to identify and analyze the social dimension of society as a context for human life, the processes of social change and social continuity, the role of human agency in those social processes, and the forces that engender social cohesion and fragmentation. Students will be able to:

GELO 1: place contemporary developments in cultural, historical, environmental, and spatial contexts; (this will be achieved by successfully completing the individual assignments for each chapter).

GELO 2: identify the dynamics of ethnic, cultural, gender/sexual, age-based, class, regional, national, transnational, and global identities and the similarities, differences, linkages, and interactions between them; (this will be achieved by successfully completing the individual assignments for each chapter).

GELO 3: evaluate social science information, draw on different points of view, and formulate applications appropriate to contemporary social issues (this will be achieved by successfully completing the individual assignments for each chapter).

GELO 4: compare and contrast two or more ethnic groups, cultures, regions, national or social systems.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO) (Required)

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

CLO1: describe the physical characteristics of the world by use of a regional approach.

CLO2: describe the cultural characteristics of the world by use of a regional approach.

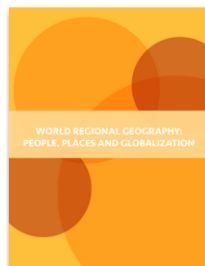
CLO3: differentiate the economic, social, and other cultural characteristics that occurs across the world

CLO4: discuss current events as they pertain to the Global Geography

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Our textbook, **World Regional Geography: People, Places and Globalization** (ISBN: 978-1-946135-27-8), is adapted from a work produced by a publisher who has requested that they and the original author not receive attribution. This adapted edition is produced by this instructor's alma mater, the University of Minnesota, through its Libraries Publishing eLearning Support Initiative. Please download the book for free in **pdf** format from the following website: <http://open.lib.umn.edu/worldgeography/>



Download in the following formats:



Choose 'PDF'

Note: it will far more convenient to download this book than to just access it online. As you respond to homework questions, you may search the downloaded document for relevant phrases or jump to particular pages.

Course Requirements and Assignment

Please access homework assignments and submit your homework responses within Canvas Assignments for this course. The assignments are also described completely in the Course Schedule below. doc, docx or pdf files are acceptable. Please keep file sizes reasonable. Use 10 point font, with 1 ½ line spacing and normal margins. Please include the following information at the upper right of the first page of each homework submission:

Your name

Geog12-80

Fall 2018

Homework #

Figures, images, and quotations from the references listed here or from other sources may be embedded in your homework responses, but you must provide attribution. Citations should be explicit and complete.

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week) for preparation/studying or course related activities.

Final Evaluation

Instead of a comprehensive exam, I want you to write a thoughtful essay on the following topic:

Where do you see the world in fifty years, if the things you think would help the world go right, really do happen? In other words, give me a detailed realistic but optimistic outcome for the world.

I want you to recognize and describe the real problems and challenges that the world faces now, as seen through your eyes. Then give me a hypothetical scenario whereby those problems are addressed over the course of your lifetime. Assume that, in general, things actually work out the way you hope they will, and then tell me how the world will look when you are old.

A complete description of this evaluation is provided below in the Course Schedule. Your essay should be at least four pages long,

Grading Information

Homework: Fourteen homework assignments and the Final Evaluation must be completed on or before the due dates, as described in the Course Schedule below. Submit them even if they are late. Everything must be accounted for by the end of the semester. Unexplained missing work counts as a zero. Please submit your responses via Canvas.

Determination of Grades

Most homework assignments (6% each x 12)	72%
Homework assignments 3 and 13 (9% each)	18%
Final Evaluation	10%
Total	100%

Habitual lateness may result in a full grade change, at the instructor's discretion, following a fair and complete discussion. Occasional lateness is tolerable. I may be late, by your standards, in grading your submissions. Please be patient with me, as I will be with you. Canvas is new for me, and I often make mistakes with new things. If you have any pressing concerns, please message or email me, or call me during my 'office hours'.

98% and above	A+
94% - 97%	A
93% - 90%	A-
89% - 87%	B+
86% - 84%	B
83% - 80%	B-
79% - 77%	C+
76% - 74%	C
73% - 70%	C-
69% - 67%	D+
66% - 64%	D
63% - 60%	D-
below 60%	F

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. More details about student workload can be found in University Policy S12-3 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

Note that "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." See University Policy F13-1 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf> for more details.

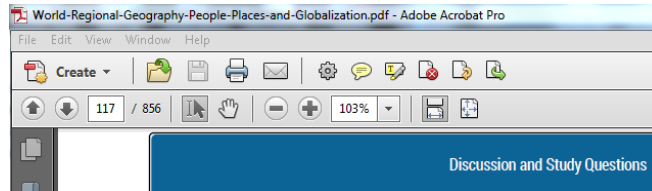
University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be 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/>

Geog12: Global Geography, Section 80, Spring 2018

Course Schedule

Note: All homework questions from the book (pdf format) are taken from the 'Discussion and Study Questions' at the end of each section. Page numbers refer to those indicated within an Acrobat Reader, not from those listed in the Table of Contents. For example, type 117 into the page tool as shown below to access the first three homework questions:



Week	Due Date	Readings, Assignments
1	8/24/18	<p>The textbook for this course is World Regional Geography: People, Places and Globalization, available for free online from my alma mater, the University of Minnesota, at http://open.lib.umn.edu/worldgeography/.</p> <p>Global geography is a wide-open topic that can be approached in many different ways. The textbook we are using has a wealth of information. As always, when chronicling cultural, economic, and political issues, there is often disagreement among people. Do not get too upset if you see something in the textbook that you consider, for good reason, to be untrue or misleading. That would be true whichever book we used. Let that be an opportunity for you to justify your perspective, or possibly to modify it. When relevant, in your homework responses, give me your own well-researched or lived experience, particularly if it differs from what the book has to say.</p> <p>There is a reason why textbooks on world geography often discuss Europe first. Europe has had a central role to play in world history for hundreds of years. I think most scholars recognize this to be true even in the absence of judgement. (I am not a believer in the concept of collective guilt.) I suspect that most of you would like to visit Europe someday, or visit again if you have already done so. I recommend the videos, books and podcasts produced by Rick Steves, for the historical and cultural background they provide, as well as for practical advice for travelers. This week's homework assignment is comparatively light, just to get things rolling. You will have a chance to tell me more about Europe with Homework 13.</p> <p>Chapter 2: Europe Homework 1 (6%):</p> <p>Page 117 questions 3, 8, 9:</p> <p>How are the differences between northern and southern Italy a reflection of southern Europe as a whole?</p> <p>How does agricultural production vary with physical geography in Western Europe?</p> <p>What are the key factors that make Western Europe an economic core area of the world?</p> <p>Page 132 questions 1, 2:</p> <p>What were four of the main reforms that occurred in Eastern Europe with the collapse of the USSR?</p> <p>Which Eastern European countries were once members of the Soviet Union?</p>

Week	Due Date	Readings, Assignments
2	8/31/18	<p>Chapter 3: Russia Homework 2 (6%):</p> <p>Page 142 questions 2, 5:</p> <p>What are Russia's main physical regions?</p> <p>What were Soviet Socialist Republics, and why were they created?</p> <p>Page 154 questions 4, 7, 9, 10:</p> <p>What were two main economic policies of the Soviet Union?</p> <p>What two policies did the last Soviet leader implement to assist in reforming the USSR?</p> <p>How did the economic system change for Russia after 1991?</p> <p>What are some reasons for Russia's population decline?</p> <p>Page 166 questions 1, 2, 6:</p> <p>What are Russia's four main regions and what are the main qualities of each?</p> <p>What connects Moscow with Russia's Far East, and why is this important?</p> <p>What are the three independent countries of Transcaucasia, and when did they gain independence from Russia?</p>
3	9/7/18	<p>I will be in China for the next two weeks. In 1968, teenagers of my wife's generation were sent to work on farms throughout China. This year is the 50th anniversary of those events. Along with a few of her comrades from that time, Cheri and I will be visiting the farm where she lived and worked for 3 ½ years. I will try to document this visit on video, and if my efforts are successful I will upload segments to YouTube. It will not be possible to communicate with me while I am abroad, and there will be some delay in grading your homework.</p> <p>Homework 3 (9 %):</p> <p>Map out a trip you would take around Europe and Russia if you had unlimited funds and time. Please don't be extravagant by staying at only the best hotels in only the most fashionable cities; rough it a bit and at least occasionally follow the road less travelled. Make sure to include at least five cities, major or minor. Also include other locations that you judge to be naturally beautiful. Tell me a little about the history and culture of each of the settled areas you would visit, and of the natural history of the landscape and/or seascape itself. Try to tell me something you would not expect me to already know.</p> <p>You don't need to include a map in your response, but make clear to me precisely what your itinerary is. Tell me which legs of your travel are by air, train, car, bus, bicycle, on foot, etc.</p> <p>This should be at least three pages long, with 10 point font, 1 ½ line spacing and normal margins.</p>

Week	Due Date	Readings, Assignments
4	9/14/18	<p>Chapter 4: North America</p> <p>Homework 4 (6%):</p> <p>Page 218 question 4:</p> <p>Where are large deposits of fossil fuels found in Canada? What are tar sands?</p> <p>Page 237 question 1, 3, 9:</p> <p>Where is the largest US megalopolis located? What region is it part of?</p> <p>What have been some of the traditional economic activities in the American South? How is this changing?</p> <p>Why does the desert region of the American Southwest continue to attract a growing population?</p> <p>In addition: consult a map of the United States, and describe a trip from here across the country that you would consider taking if you had plenty of time and had to end up in New York City. You could for example take a northern, central, or southern route. Tell me where you would stop and any side trips you would take. Justify your choices; you might want to revisit a place or go there based on what you know or people you'd like to visit. This should require at least two pages.</p>
5	9/21/18	<p>California is heavily influenced by, and influences in turn, the nations and cultures of Middle America. In your homework, feel free to describe any insights you may offer based on your personal or family history.</p> <p>Chapter 5: Middle America</p> <p>Homework 5 (6%):</p> <p>Page 250 questions 2, 6:</p> <p>What are the main distinctions between the mainland and the rimland?</p> <p>Who were the Aztec and the Maya, and when did their empires flourish? What happened to these empires?</p> <p>Page 266 questions 1, 2, 8:</p> <p>What are the main physical features of Mexico?</p> <p>How does the core-periphery spatial relationship apply to Mexico?</p> <p>How is NAFTA similar to the European Union, and how is it different?</p> <p>CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE</p>

Week	Due Date	Readings, Assignments
		<p>Homework5 continued:</p> <p>Page 281 questions 3, 8:</p> <p>How are the Central American republics different in their political histories?</p> <p>Who started building the Panama Canal? Who completed it? Who controls it today?</p> <p>Page 298 questions 2, 6, 7:</p> <p>Which European countries were the main colonizers of the Caribbean?</p> <p>Why is Puerto Rico a commonwealth of the United States?</p> <p>How is Haiti different from its neighbor, the Dominican Republic?</p>
6	9/28/18	<p>Chapter 6: South America</p> <p>Homework 6 (6%):</p> <p>Page 330 questions 5, 10:</p> <p>Where are the five main cultural regions of South America?</p> <p>Why has it been so difficult to unify the countries in this realm into a single trade zone?</p> <p>Page 347 questions 5, 10:</p> <p>What environmental problems result from the cocaine production process?</p> <p>What types of agriculture are found in the north and western regions of South America?</p> <p>Page 347 questions 5, 6, 9:</p> <p>Why is Manaus such a core city for its region?</p> <p>What makes it so attractive to economic development?</p> <p>What are the main causes of deforestation in the Amazon Basin? How can deforestation be reduced?</p> <p>Page 347 questions 1, 7, 10:</p> <p>What are the main physical regions of Argentina and Chile?</p> <p>What are the main attributes and contributions of the Pampas and Patagonia?</p>

Week	Due Date	Readings, Assignments
7	10/5/18	<p>Chapter 7: Subsaharan Africa</p> <p>Homework 7 (6%):</p> <p>Page 411 questions 2, 5, 6:</p> <p>What is the difference between the formal and informal sectors of the economy?</p> <p>Approximately how many languages are spoken in Africa? How many are spoken in Nigeria alone?</p> <p>Why would a former colony under European imperialism agree to use the language of its colonizer as its national language when dozens or hundreds of languages are already spoken in the country?</p> <p>Page 429 questions 4, 5, 8:</p> <p>How do most of the people in West Africa make a living?</p> <p>What are blood diamonds? What two countries in West Africa have had civil wars based on them?</p> <p>What was the Pan-African concept, and how did it affect West Africa?</p> <p>Page 450 questions 1, 5, 8, 9:</p> <p>What are the main physical geographic features in Central Africa?</p> <p>What is the relationship between the poor, remote peripheral regions of the Congo and the core economic areas of the world with high standards of living and urban lifestyles?</p> <p>What are some of the main women's issues in Central Africa?</p> <p>What is the relationship between family size and women's issues?</p>
8	10/12/18	<p>Chapter 7: Subsaharan Africa</p> <p>Homework 8 (6%):</p> <p>Page 469 questions 4, 5:</p> <p>How have Kenya and Tanzania attempted to preserve and protect the environment?</p> <p>Where is the Serengeti Plain? How does it bring national wealth to its home countries?</p> <p>Page 487 questions 6, 7, 9:</p> <p>How did the Cold War influence Southern African countries?</p> <p>What economic condition plagues most developing countries that seek aid from the IMF and the World Bank?</p> <p>How has the policy of apartheid affected South Africa? When did apartheid officially end?</p>

Week	Due Date	Readings, Assignments
9	10/19/18	<p>Chapter 8: North Africa and Southwest Asia</p> <p>Homework 9 (6%):</p> <p>Page 529 questions 1, 2, 8:</p> <p>What is the name of the majority ethnic group that resides in the Maghreb? What is the main physical feature there?</p> <p>What have been the main ties between North Africa and European continent?</p> <p>Name the country in the Sahel where slavery has become prominent. Why did no one step in to stop it?</p> <p>Page 547 questions 6, 9:</p> <p>How are the governments of Israel, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon different?</p> <p>Where was the “Paris of the Middle East”? What happened to the city in 1975?</p> <p>Page 564 questions 2, 5:</p> <p>Why type of government does Saudi Arabia have? What is the law based on?</p> <p>Who drilled the first offshore Kuwaiti oil well? Why is this significant?</p> <p>Page 582 question 6:</p> <p>What three ethnic groups form an Ethnic Triangle that dominates the Middle East?</p> <p>Page 605 question 3, 4,7:</p> <p>How is the Tengiz basin important to the global economy? Where is it located?</p> <p>How have problems with the Aral Sea affected the people of the region?</p> <p>List at least five general trends that have been occurring in Central Asia since the collapse of the Soviet Union.</p>
10	11/2/18	<p>Chapter 9: South Asia</p> <p>Homework 10 (6%):</p> <p>Page 622 questions 2, 3:</p> <p>What are the three major rivers of South Asia? Where do they start and what bodies of water do they flow into? Why have these river basins been such an important part of the early civilizations of the realm and why are they core population areas today?</p> <p>Why does the monsoon usually arrive in late May or early June? What is the main precipitation pattern that</p>

Week	Due Date	Readings, Assignments
		<p>accompanies the monsoon? Why is the monsoon a major source of support for South Asia's large population?</p> <p>Page 635 questions 6, 7:</p> <p>Explain Bhutan's guiding philosophy regarding development.</p> <p>Why is Nepal experiencing environmental degradation?</p> <p>Page 653 questions 3, 6:</p> <p>Compare the population density of Pakistan, Bangladesh, and the United States.</p> <p>What are the main environmental problems in Pakistan? In Bangladesh?</p> <p>Page 668 questions 2, 3, 5:</p> <p>What are the three main language families in India? What is the lingua franca?</p> <p>List the main qualities that are different between the rural and urban areas of India.</p> <p>Explain the various ways in which the rapid population growth is impacting India.</p>
11	11/9/18	<p>Chapter 10: East Asia</p> <p>Portions of a trip I took to China last Spring can be seen here. What do you think?</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBtvag1nixHyhelsCE2H5CysESGyTkqZu</p> <p>Homework 11 (6%):</p> <p>Page 711 questions 2, 3, 6, 9:</p> <p>What are SEZ's? Where would we find them in China? Why are they located where they are located?</p> <p>Which region of China has the highest population density? Why do they live here rather than in other areas of China?</p> <p>Why did China shift from a command economy to a market economy?</p> <p>Under what four main principles do the SEZs operate?</p> <p>Page 724 questions 1, 3:</p> <p>What makes the port of Hong Kong significant in both physical characteristics and relative location?</p> <p>Where is Shenzhen? Why did this city emerge as one of the fastest growing cities in the world?</p> <p>Page 742 questions 4, 5:</p>

Week	Due Date	Readings, Assignments
		<p>Does Japan have a high or low population growth rate? What problems arise from this situation?</p> <p>How did Japan become an economic superpower after 1945?</p> <p>Additional question: Outline the 20th century history that led to the existence of two Koreas. What nations were involved? How was WWII relevant?</p>
12	11/16/18	<p>Chapter 11: Southeast Asia</p> <p>Again, if you have ties to Southeast Asia, feel free to describe any insights you may offer.</p> <p>Homework 12 (6%):</p> <p>Page 751 questions 4, 5:</p> <p>Which European countries have been the main colonizers and which countries did each colonize? How has the colonial experience influenced the realm?</p> <p>Where are the main population centers? Why are these locations favorable to such large populations? Which countries are the most populous?</p> <p>Page 770 questions 1, 7:</p> <p>What are the main physical features and qualities of the mainland region of Southeast Asia?</p> <p>What were the Killing Fields? What people were targeted to be eliminated? Why were these people killed?</p> <p>Page 790 questions 4, 5, 7, 9</p> <p>What type of economic activity has Singapore engaged in to gain wealth?</p> <p>How does the growth triangle that Singapore is engaged in work? How does each partner benefit?</p> <p>What environmental problems exist in Indonesia and the Philippines? Which are natural phenomena?</p> <p>What are the three main regions of the Philippines? Which region has the largest population?</p>
13	11/23/18	Thanksgiving break
14	11/29/18	<p>Homework 13 (9%):</p> <p>As with Homework3, map out a trip you would take if you had 'unlimited' funds (rough it a bit) and unlimited time. This time, however, I want you to define a precise purpose for your trip, other than pleasure. I am sure you all plan to become a professional in some domain. Or perhaps you have some intense interest that has nothing to do with your career. For this trip around the world (including at least</p>

Week	Due Date	Readings, Assignments
		<p>three continents), I want you to imagine yourself devoting your time to researching and experiencing the best representations around the world of that profession or interest. They might be those places in the world that are known to attract or generate the most outstanding people in a particular field. If you are interested in the events that occurred around the world during a particular historical period, you might want to visit the places where those events occurred. If you are interested in particular documents or works of art, tell me about those libraries and museums around the world that shelter them. Where in the world are you likely to find the greatest makers of violins or other musical instruments, or the virtuosos that play them? Where in the world is the best high-altitude coffee grown? The possibilities are endless.</p> <p>Imagine also that you have a high quality audio translation device that can help you communicate with people wherever you go. Write an itinerary with the actual intention of doing this somehow. Tell me about each stop and why it is important. For this assignment especially, I expect you to tell me something you wouldn't expect people already to know.</p> <p>You don't need to include maps or images in your response (although you may, judiciously and with attribution), but make clear to me precisely what your itinerary is. Tell me which legs of your travel are by air, train, car, bus, bicycle, on foot, etc. This should be <i>at least</i> three pages long.</p>
15	12/7/18	<p>Chapter 12: Australia and New Zealand</p> <p>Homework 14 (6%):</p> <p>Page 809 questions 3, 4, 9</p> <p>What are some of Australia's main physical features? How are they developed for tourism?</p> <p>What are the main climate types in Australia? How does climate relate to population?</p> <p>What are Australia's main exports? Who is their main trading partner?</p> <p>Page 820 questions 1, 2, 4, 9</p> <p>What are the main physical features of the South Island and North Island of New Zealand?</p> <p>How is the North Island different from the South Island in population and economic activities?</p> <p>Who were the inhabitants of New Zealand before the colonial era? Where did they come from?</p> <p>How has the economic situation in New Zealand changed over the past few decades?</p> <p>Chapter 13: The Pacific and Antarctica</p> <p>Page 838 questions 1, 2, 5</p> <p>What are the three main regions of islands in the Pacific? What island nations belong to each?</p> <p>What are the traditional methods of making a living on the Pacific islands?</p> <p>Name three major environmental concerns of these islands.</p>

Week	Due Date	Readings, Assignments
Final Exam	12/14/18	<p>Final evaluation (10%):</p> <p>Instead of a comprehensive exam, which would not make much sense in the simplified, streamlined online version of this class that I hopefully was capable of providing for you, I want you to write a thoughtful essay on the following topic.</p> <p>Where do you see the world in fifty years, if the things you think would help the world go right, really do happen? In other words, give me a realistic but optimistic outcome.</p> <p>I want you to recognize and describe the real problems and challenges that the world faces now, as seen through your eyes. Then give me a hypothetical scenario whereby those problems are addressed over the course of your lifetime. Assume that, in general, things actually work out the way you hope they will, and then tell me how the world will look when you are old. No pastel ponies, please, or ‘cellophane flowers of yellow and green’. Be realistic. Recognize that there are 7 billion people on Earth now, and that number is likely to grow in your lifetime to 10 billion before leveling off. Recognize that the Earth’s climate would have changed dramatically, even under the best of circumstances. But you might also assume that poverty has somehow become rare throughout the world, that we have found new ways of sequestering carbon, and that our energy has become carbon-free. What would the world be like? Is there any place now that you can think of, or any imaginary place, that most of the world would come to resemble? What about culture, and its contribution to the human soul? What about violence? Has it been tamed? What about economics and social interaction and all the other topics covered in your textbook? Somehow, for example, you might hypothesize that people have finally recognized their common humanity. How did this happen? Describe issues that remain.</p> <p>These are just some ideas. Give me yours, in at least four pages, in such a way as to convince me that you’ve gotten something out of this course..</p>